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Netanyahu says he met Arafat

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in an interview with the Times on Monday, said he had met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, promising heavy demands from his office. Addressing Jewish-American youths, Netanyahu made the reference to Arafat in a three-minute speech to combat Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. "They cooked up a lie, a big lie," he said. "Believe me I have experience with the big lie. I met Arafat in Geneva the other week. They are lies, they are lies... no problems." A foreign ministry spokesman denied that Netanyahu had met Arafat when he addressed a special U.N. Security Council session in Geneva on May 23 which debated a farce of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories. He could not immediately explain Netanyahu's remark but said: "It would be impossible for official members of this government to meet with the PLO." The Israeli delegation to the U.N. boycotted Arafat's address to the Security Council.

Tank battle rages new Beirut fears

BEIRUT (R) — Christian armies fought a 90-minute tank battle in the streets of east Beirut Monday and prepared for a major showdown in their four-month war. Security sources said the pre-dawn fighting was the fiercest since a shaky ceasefire was declared three weeks ago. Explosions echoed across the mountains and streets lit up the night sky as army units of General Michel Aoun and the rival Lebanese Forces (LF) militia battled with tanks, mortars and machine guns. The main battleground was the districts of Nabaa and Sh Al F, where residents covered in shelters. Reports on casualties were not available, security sources said. Residents reported LF units were establishing artillery positions and had brought more men into the front line for any resumption of large-scale confrontations. Fears of renewed war drove people from the streets and parts of the Christian enclave resembled a ghost town. Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir said Sunday he had information the belligerents were preparing for a new round of fighting "as if what has happened is not sufficiently tragic."

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Cairo renovates Arab League

CAIRO (R) — Overpopulated Cairo, preparing to host its first Arab summit for 20 years in November, is planning a major facelift of its central square, Egyptian television reported. A news report said a bus terminal used by hundreds of thousands every day would be moved from crowded Tahrir Square next to the Arab League headquarters and replaced by gardens. The television showed dozens of workers renovating the old headquarters. The league moved to Tunis in 1979 after Egypt was suspended for entering a separate treaty with Israel but is due to return to Cairo in September. Leaders agreed at an Arab summit in Baghdad in May to hold their next meeting in Cairo in September 1990, a day before President Gamal Abdul Nasser died.

Greek guerrillas attack U.S. firm

ATHENS (R) — The Greek guerrilla group November 17 attacked a U.S. company's offices in Athens early Monday with a 50-year-old rocket launcher stolen from a museum and a modern missile stolen from an army depot, police said. There were no casualties in the attack on the Procter and Gamble offices. Police said the assault appeared to be a test run because the attackers had removed the explosive warhead of the missile, which caused only a small hole in the building. "We are now waiting for the real hit," a senior policeman told Reuters. "Although there is no claim of responsibility, we are certain November 17 is behind the attack. They are the only ones who had the means to fit a modern projectile to a 1940 bazooka," a senior policeman told Reuters.

'Hookahs can transmit AIDS virus'

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian doctor has warned that smoking traditional hookahs or water-pipes could lead to AIDS. In an interview in Monday's Al Gomhuria newspaper, Ismail Salm said several diseases, including the killer virus AIDS, could be caught from a water-pipe. The pipes, known as hookahs, are a popular smoking device shared by several people at traditional coffee shops. The newspaper said hookahs had become a fad in Egypt after a number of hotels started offering them as a tourist attraction.

Warsaw Pact defence chiefs to meet

EAST-BERLIN (R) — Defence ministers of the seven Warsaw Pact states will gather near East Berlin Wednesday for a two-day regular meeting that, according to East German media, may be the alliance's last military conference. The official East German news agency quoted a defence and disarmament ministry statement as saying the meeting would take place from June 13 to 15 in Strausberg, east of the capital. In an interview with the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper at the weekend, East German Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann said the pact's military structure would be abolished by the end of the year. "Next week's meeting of Warsaw Pact defence ministers in Strausberg will be the last of its kind," he added.

England, Ireland draw 1-1

CAGLIARI, Sardinia (AP) — Kevin Sheedy scored with a low drive with 18 minutes remaining to lift Ireland to a 1-1 draw with England Monday night in a World Cup Group F match. England led 1-0 on an eight-minute goal from striker Gary Lineker, but Ireland fought back impressively in the second half. The game was played at a tremendous pace throughout, with both teams struggling to control the ball. England and Ireland are grouped with the Netherlands and Egypt in the first round of the 24-nation tournament. The teams meet in Palermo Tuesday night.

Palestinian shot dead in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian and captured at least 11 people in a gunfight in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus Monday, residents said. Palestinians identified the dead man as 18-year-old Jamal Sabagh and said he was a leader of the revolutionary security apparatus, a paramilitary group affiliated with the Fatah movement. Israeli military officials confirmed a Palestinian man was killed, three were wounded and eight were captured unharmed. A statement said an army patrol encountered a group of people in the city of Nablus who turned out to be wanted by the army.

The army did not say if there was an exchange of fire but reported that a pistol, ammunition and knives were found in possession of the Arabs. The army imposed a curfew on the 120,000 residents in the city and adjacent refugee camps. Residents said some fugitives had escaped and the army was still searching for them.

Palestinians said the "revolutionary security apparatus" was a pseudo-police force of uprising activists who tracked and interrogated suspected Arab collaborators. But unlike the Black Panthers, another Fatah group which operated last year in Nablus, the security apparatus did not kill.

Uprising leaders urge Arabs to fight 'terrorist' Israeli coalition

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leaders of the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's new right-wing coalition as a "terrorist government" on Monday and urged Arabs to fight it. "Through escalating the uprising and strict adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative as a political option we can force the enemy government and its ally, the United States, to retreat," the Unified Leadership of the Uprising said in its latest regular leaflet.

It urged Palestinian strike forces, the activists of the revolt, to "escalate attacks against settlers, gangs and military outposts on the land of our independent state."

"Cover roads used by settlers with oil and bent nails and strike (army) observation posts with fire-bombs," the self-styled "leaflet of challenge to the racist government" said.

The leaders reflected growing Palestinian concern over a possible increase in repression by the most right-wing cabinet in Israel's history.

Uprising leaders said the new government would settle Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories and increase "official terrorism to implement its racist policies."

The leaflet strongly criticised the United States for preventing the U.N. Security Council from sending an observer team to study ways of protecting the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It also accused the Bush administration of blackmail by threatening to suspend an 18-month dialogue with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) unless the organisation condemned the seaborne attack on Israel's shores earlier this month.

The leaflet endorsed a call by leading Palestinian nationalists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to cut contacts with the United States last week in protest at Washington's U.N. veto, although the PLO has not severed its talks with the Americans.

Israelis have killed at least 676 Palestinians since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987. Unknown assailants have killed some 211 Arabs, most as suspected informers, and 46 Jews have died.

The last raid took place in March where Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians and arrested two.

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Arab driver attacked
An Israeli man struck an Arab cab driver on the head with a hammer in West Jerusalem Monday seriously injuring him, police said.

"An apparently Jewish passen-



Masked Palestinians holding rocks and a Palestinian flag taunt Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank.

ger beat an Arab taxi driver in the face with a hammer on Hill Street," a police statement said after the attack at noon. "The driver was taken to hospital."

Army radio quoted witnesses as saying the attacker was not a passenger but approached the parked taxi with a hammer and

assaulted the driver without saying a word.

The radio said the assailant escaped.

Last month an Israeli disguised as a soldier opened fire on a group of Palestinian labourers in central Israel, killing eight of them.

Israeli officials said Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had protested to Egypt over its support for the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions.

Arens sent a message to Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid Sunday, saying the resolutions did not contribute to peace in the Middle East, they said.

In the letter handed to Abdul Meguid by Israel's Ambassador in Cairo Shimon Shamir, Arens objected to the Arab leaders' condemnation of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arens said the resolutions, which attacked the United States for its support of Israel, did not indicate "readiness for peace with Israel and... support of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue."

Arens also condemned Arab leaders for helping the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The minister argued that by supporting the resolutions, Egypt had legitimised Iraq's warning to use chemical weapons against the Jewish state if it attacked Iraq.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has threatened to retaliate with chemical weapons against any Israeli attacks on Iraq or other Arab countries.

Israeli protest
In another development,

Assad: Israel would suffer more in war

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said Monday both Arabs and Israelis had enough arms to inflict disaster on each other but Arabs would survive better because there was more of them.

Addressing the first session of Syria's newly elected parliament, Assad said Israel would suffer more in a Middle East war because of its small population.

"Israel is still advanced over Arabs technologically and could inflict on them human disasters in the case of war. But Arabs, with what they own, can exchange the disasters in the same way..."

"Because Arabs have human depth, which Israel lacks, the exchange of disasters would have more weight on the Israelis," Assad said.

The Syrian leader said the balance of power in the Middle East was swinging in favour of the Arabs and Israel's "way of force" would lead only to deadlock.

He said the Arabs wanted peace but Israel did not because it sought only to expand and take more Arab territories by force.

"Peace will force Israel to return the occupied territories to their owners and will put an end to expansion," Assad said.

He reiterated calls for Arab unity and solidarity.

"What is coming is not a limited danger but a danger of destiny... it is ironic that some of our Arab brothers are talking about this danger but this did not appear in their actions and behaviour."

Assad did not attend an Arab summit in Baghdad last month. He and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein have long been at odds.

The summit was called to discuss the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel which has alarmed Arab states and the Palestinians of the occupied territories. About 250,000 are expected to arrive this year.

Assad praised the merger between North and South Yemen "which put unity above all consideration and affirmed they want this unity as a step on the way to the greater Arab unity."

Soviet envoy to brief King on superpower summit outcome

By a Jordan Times Staff
Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky was due to arrive here late Monday or early Tuesday to brief His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of the superpower summit held earlier this month, informed sources said.

Petrovsky was in Baghdad Sunday and delivered a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, reports from the Iraqi capital said.

According to the reports, the message, which dealt with the summit Gorbachev held with

U.S. President George Bush in Washington, dwelt on Arab fears over Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The Soviet president warned Israel after the summit that Moscow might consider halting the issuance of exit permits to Soviet Jews unless Israel provided assurances that the emigres will not be settled in the occupied territories.

Both Jordan and the PLO welcomed the Soviet position. Petrovsky, who arrived in Baghdad Saturday, also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and discussed regional issues and bilateral relations, according to official Iraqi reports. Diplomats quoted by Reuters said he also briefed Aziz on the outcome of the superpower summit.

Polyakov briefs Mubarak

In Cairo, meanwhile, another senior Soviet official briefed President Hosni Mubarak on the results of the summit, reports from the Egyptian capital said.

Quoting Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources, Reuters said Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, briefed Mubarak on general and Middle East topics raised by Gorbachev and Bush.

Mubarak during a trip to Moscow last month urged Gorbachev to raise the subject of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel when he met Bush at the summit.

PLO condemns civilian attacks, but U.S. says it is not enough

By a Jordan Times Staff
Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday issued a statement renewing its condemnation of attacks against civilians and lambasted the new Israeli government of right-wing factions as a government of extremists.

But the United States government said it was disappointed with the statement for not explicitly condemning last month's aborted guerrilla raid on Israel and not specifically mentioning the involvement of a PLO Executive Committee member in the operation.

However, a State Department spokeswoman did not make clear whether the U.S. administration had decided to call off its 17-month-old dialogue with the PLO. The administration had insisted that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat publicly condemn the attack, which was mounted by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and expelled PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Abbas) from the PLO Executive Committee.

The PLO statement, released simultaneously by the PLO headquarters in Tunis and Palestinian missions elsewhere, did not specifically refer to the attack or the American threats to end the dialogue. It said:

"The latest Arab summit (held in Baghdad last month) rejected the no-war-no-peace situation (in the Middle East) and supported the Palestinian peace initiative, which was endorsed by all Arab summits and aims at protecting the region from a catastrophic war in which all types of massive

destruction weapons could be used," the statement said. "We are committed to the concept of peace and avoiding war."

"Acting from this position, we have been against all forms of military actions targeting civilians regardless of their nature," the statement said. "We condemn such actions, at a time when Israel's crime against our children and women are being increased — crimes for which the United States continues to provide protection."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said: "We are pleased to see that they are denouncing military action against civilians but we are disappointed that they have not explicitly condemned the Tel Aviv raid and refrained from any public comment on Abu Abbas."

Tutwiler said the administration had never put a deadline on deciding whether to end the PLO dialogue.

But another senior U.S. official said Baker, who was expected to be questioned on this issue during congressional appearances Tuesday and Wednesday, realised a decision must be taken soon.

The PLO statement described the new Israeli government of right-wing leader Yitzhak Shamir as "a war government designed to stifle the Palestinian uprising and is a government of extremists."

"The danger of the new government is manifested in the Palestinian, Arab and international community by its declared programme which is only an extension of others declared by previous Israeli governments which also rejected all peace in-

itiatives," it said.

The statement referred to Shamir's rejection of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's call for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo as well as a 10-point Egyptian proposal seeking clarifications for Shamir's plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "In contrast (to the Israeli rejection), the PLO responded favourably to all these initiatives with a spirit of high responsibility," the statement pointed out.

"We are still committed to work with all regional and international powers to achieve a just, fair and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the Palestinian initiative and other international initiatives. We are also committed to honouring our pledges that have been made since we offered our peace initiative in Geneva in 1988."

"It is well known that the Israeli government is preparing for war and is escalating its oppression against the Palestinian people through acts of repression and massacres as well as aggression on Arab countries and creation of settlements in the occupied Arab territories," said the statement.

The PLO statement followed reports that Sweden and Britain were trying to maintain the American-PLO dialogue after indications that Washington was considering breaking it off in the absence of a PLO condemnation of the PLF attack.

Arafat has said that the PLO leadership had no prior knowledge of the raid but refrained

(Continued on page 5)

Knesset blesses Shamir's hardline coalition cabinet

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday won parliamentary approval for Israel's first right-wing cabinet since 1984, gaining 62 votes in the 120-seat Knesset.

Shamir formally presented the 19-member cabinet in a speech of more than one hour in which he pledged to seek peace but promised expanded Jewish settlements that will likely raise tensions with Washington and the Arabs.

The vote came after a six-hour debate, with liberal lawmakers charging that Shamir's Likud bloc used bribery to forge the coalition of nine small far-right and religious parties, and the rival Labour Party saying the new government cannot bring peace.

Shamir replied that the critics were "pitiful" and called on Israelis to take up the task of absorbing the thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants coming to Israel.

"This is the mission and around this mission I will compose today a national unity government," he said just before the vote was taken.

The vote was 62 for the government, 57 against and one abstention. It installed Israel's 24th government since the state's founding in

1948 and gave the 74-year-old Shamir the prime minister's job for the fourth time.

Shamir first became premier in 1983 when Likud founder Menachem Begin stepped down. That right-wing government fell later that year, but Shamir stayed in power until the elections of 1984. Since then Likud has had to accept power-sharing with the Labour Party.

The angry political bickering that accompanied the new government's birth raised questions about whether the coalition of diverse factions could survive until the next scheduled election in 1992.

Shamir and his Likud allies spent the day warding off threats of defection, and it was uncertain if the Knesset, or parliament, would back the new government until the vote was cast.

The ultra-orthodox Shas Party threatened to pull out over a police investigation of alleged fraud by one of its leaders, and four parliament members also warned they would abstain or vote no because they did not get ministerial positions.

David Levy, a leading Likud figure and the foreign minister, walked out of a meeting with Shamir because he was only one

of two deputy premiers and not Shamir's undisputed successor.

But in the end all the defection threats proved empty as Shamir got the 62 votes he forecast when he announced the government last Friday.

Demonstrators gathered outside the Knesset to demand political reform, shouting slogans about concessions made to bring ultra-orthodox parties into the government.

Amnon Rubinstein of the liberal Shinui party said the bargaining amounted to bribery by offering jobs to defectors from Labour.

"If you're proposing for one person to come to another party and you give them a ministry... it is nothing but bribery," he said.

Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labour compared the new cabinet to Begin's right-wing government elected in 1981 that started the Lebanon war.

"This is a narrow government, narrow in its shoulders and horizons, a government that cannot answer the great challenges and decrease the great dangers," he said.

Following is the new Israeli cabinet that Shamir submitted

(Continued on page 3)

Ruling Tunisian party sweeps local elections

TUNIS (R) — The ruling Tunisian RCD party won control of all but one of the 245 municipal councils in local government elections which were boycotted by the opposition Sunday.

The official results published Monday showed that the Constitutional Democratic Assembly (RCD) won 3,750 council seats while the remaining 34 went to independents, most of them defectors from the RCD.

Officials said the turnout was between 80 and 90 per cent indicating that the opposition's call for a boycott was largely ignored. Turnout was low in constituencies where the RCD competed with independents. In some areas where it was unopposed it was as high as over 90 per cent.

The sole council not carried by the RCD was in the coastal village of Chebba where independents won control with the support of workers in the fishing industry.

The only incidents reported

were the withdrawal of five lists of independents who alleged fraudulent practices by RCD candidates in the localities of Takeisa, Al-Hama, Maktar, Kellbia and Lettaoui.

The five withdrew Sunday during the vote and a sixth withdrew Saturday before voting started in the locality of Rades near Tunis. In Monastir, birthplace of former President Habib Bourguiba, three RCD dissidents were elected but the ruling party still has a majority.

Six legal opposition parties and the Nahdha Islamic fundamentalist movement, which is not officially authorised, called for a boycott of the elections.

They said that despite changes in the electoral law introduced by President Zine Abidine Ben Ali

there were not enough guarantees that the poll would be democratic, mainly because the RCD controls the administration which organised the elections.

They also said their boycott was a protest against delays in carrying out democratic reforms promised by Ben Ali since he ousted Bourguiba in November 1987.

The RCD won all 141 seats in the National Assembly in legislative elections in April last year. At the time the opposition alleged there were widespread irregularities.

The government billed the legislative and local polls as the first multi-party elections in Tunisia since independence 32 years ago. The official results mean that Tunisia remains under one-party rule.

Government ministers who actively campaigned on behalf of RCD candidates said the boycott by opposition groups was a tactic to hide their weakness.

61.5 per cent of electorate vote for Kuwaiti assembly

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti officials said Monday that 61.5 per cent of the electorate voted Sunday to choose a new interim assembly, despite a call by pro-democracy activists for a boycott.

Diplomats who saw the poll as a test of government support in its tussle with the campaigners described the turnout as a "respectable" figure.

But a spokesman for the opposition group said independent estimates put turnout at slightly more than 50 per cent. He said it was 60-65 per cent in outlying regions and about 45 per cent in urban areas.

"The government must take this into consideration," he told Reuters.

The activists, led by 30 former deputies, demand the return of parliament dissolved by the emir in 1986. They dismiss his proposed interim assembly as unconstitutional and powerless.

The turnout for the last elections to parliament in February 1985 was about 80 per cent. Diplomats said the 61.5 per cent response Sunday was a respectable figure, considering the boycott call and the fact that the assembly was virtually a consultative body.

They said a high turnout in bedouin areas outside Kuwait City and its suburbs helped offset a modest response in urban areas considered to be opposition strongholds.

Kuwait's 62,000-strong all-male electorate was asked to choose 50 deputies from among 348 candidates. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will appoint 25 others.

The assembly will consider the future of democracy in the small Gulf state, whose oil and foreign

investments make it among the world's wealthiest.

In closed sessions it will review past parliamentary experiments and make non-binding recommendations to the government ahead of elections due to be held in 1994 for a new Majlis Al Umma (parliament).

The emir, at the helm of this Gulf country since 1977, said Kuwait was the target of a foreign conspiracy when he dissolved the house at the height of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war raging nearby.

The Kuwait News Agency's list of winners include one — Osman Ali Al-Nagdi — with as few as 150 votes. Salman Hameid Al-Azmy's 1,266 votes were the highest won by a single candidate.

The overwhelming majority of the 348 candidates were political unknowns.

Saudi paper blames international terrorism for murder of diplomats

NICOSIA (R) — The Saudi daily newspaper Al-Yom said Monday that international terrorism was behind the killing of Saudi diplomats in Thailand.

In an editorial carried by the Saudi News Agency (SPA), the newspaper said a foreign power was involved in the murder of the four Saudi diplomats in Bangkok in January last year and February this year.

A Saudi businessman went missing in the Thai capital in February, but no group has claimed responsibility for this abduction. "The barbarity and brutality of this foreign power will become clear to everyone, when the Thai authorities reveal who it was," the newspaper said.

On Saturday, Saudi Arabia said Thailand had established that a foreign party was involved in the Bangkok attacks and urged the authorities there to identify it.

"The kingdom repeats its denunciation of all kinds and shapes of international terrorism, which is behind these ugly crimes... and reserves its right to protect its nationals and punish the criminals," Al Yom said.

Saudi Arabia said Sunday Thai Muslims would be treated like all others during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca next month.

Thai officials said Friday that Riyadh had scrapped plans to provide transport for Thai pilgrims after reports that Thai workers sponsored by Iran in the

Middle East had been given military training.

"This is not true," the Saudi Press Agency quoted an official source as saying. "Thai pilgrims are treated just like their brothers from other Muslim states."

The Thai officials said Riyadh had cancelled plans to send eight planes to Thailand to carry Thai pilgrims to the pilgrimage, but would allow Thais to travel on other airlines.

Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, has said it will boycott the pilgrimage for the third year in a row unless Riyadh triples its quota of 45,000 pilgrims and allows demonstrations denouncing the United States and Israel.

Ethiopia may seek assurance Falashas do not go to West Bank

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia is considering whether to allow thousands of black Jews to emigrate to Israel, Foreign Minister Tesfaye Dinka said.

But he denied that the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, which restored diplomatic relations with Israel last November, had already reached an agreement with Israel on a mass exodus of its Jews, known as Falashas.

"The Ethiopian government is

not discussing and has not discussed a mass exodus of the remaining Falashas," Tesfaye told Reuters in an interview Sunday. "What we have discussed with them is reasonable efforts towards family reunion."

A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official said last week that the estimated 14,000 Jews still in Ethiopia were expected to emigrate to Israel within a year.

About 12,000 Falashas emigrated in a secret airlift launched

in late 1984.

Tesfaye said Ethiopia might seek assurances from Israel that the Falashas would not be resettled in the occupied West Bank if they did go to Israel.

"This particular point is quite possible. We have not as yet discussed the details (of any exodus) how many and how they go," he said. "We are also looking at the implications of how our neighbours would look at it."

Beirut's war surgeons are sick of seeing people die

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — With blood up to their elbows and shells smashing into their hospitals, Beirut's surgeons toil in a vision of hell to save victims of the fighting.

Experts at keeping their emotions in check, they reveal the hard-won lessons of their calling during a lull in their work.

"I've been operating since I joined an army hospital in 1973 but I'm never depressed," said Dr Mitri Barbour, 60, a surgeon at the shell-damaged Hayek Hospital in Christian east Beirut.

"You know what happens to a surgeon in this war? You just get fed up seeing young people dead. You get angry, not depressed." He paused, staring at his hands. "I'm sick of seeing people dead."

For the last four months hospitals in East Beirut have been flooded with cases of shell, rocket, mortar and bullet wounds from the worst inter-Christian war in Lebanon's history.

More than 1,080 people have been killed and 3,150 wounded in east Beirut since Jan. 31. Most surgeons said the fighting, injuries and operating conditions were the worst they had seen.

They said three factors determined whether a casualty lived or died — the type of injury, the speed at which he or she reached hospital and the

availability of blood.

The number of casualties was larger than before and wounds more serious because battles erupted without warning in crowded urban areas from which there was no escape.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and troops under General Michel Aoun have sliced up east Beirut with frontlines. Some hospitals were isolated in battle zones, others like Hayek were left a few blocks behind the lines and a few were fairly safe.

Another doctor at Hayek, which has received some 700 wounded since January, described a typical day when he operated for up to 20 hours at a stretch while shells exploded nearby.

"We hear fighting starts so we rush to the hospital. And then people come in and throw wounded at us," said the surgeon, who declined to be identified.

"Sometimes we have no beds so they stay on the floor. If shells land near the hospital we work in the basement."

"The soldiers and Red Cross workers bringing in the casualties say 'do what you can' and then leave to fetch more."

He said the most harrowing problem was the large number of injured and shortage of doctors who constantly had to decide who to treat quickly and who had to wait.

About half the wounded taken to hospital required surgery.



A resident stands in sorrow at the balcony of his destroyed house in battered east Beirut as rival Christian militias continued their battles.

Surgeons at Hayek often had to use local rather than general anaesthetic during operations in the basement bomb shelter or when the oxygen tanks were nearly depleted.

But death rates among those wounded in Beirut during the 15-year civil war remain relatively low compared in such conflicts as Korea and Vietnam.

With many neighbourhood hospitals, casualties arrive within 20 minutes and surgeons

often know the wounded. Only 25 of the 700 casualties taken in Hayek died. Sacre-Coeur Hospital treated some 600 people, three of whom could not be saved. Hotel-Dieu de France took in some 320 and 33 died.

"The most striking thing is how well the system coped," said Dr. Pierre Farah, a surgeon at Hotel-Dieu de France which lies on a frontline separating the army and LF. Founded by shells, the hos-

pital is now starved of wounded. Neither side dares take people there because of intense fighting in the area and because of a militia checkpoint at its gate.

The surgeons agreed that the worst types of casualties were sniper victims, usually shot in the head, throat or chest. Many were hit by explosive bullets.

Sacre-Coeur, a few kilometres from the frontline, estimates 25 per cent of its casualties had bullet wounds. Half of these were hit by explosive "dum dum" bullets or similar ammunition.

One sniper near Hotel-Dieu became notorious in the first few weeks of fighting. "He provided us with a lot of clients," said Farah, whose sandbagged hospital is ringed by dirt barricades.

Among the victims was a doctor hit in his car as he left work. His corpse lay in the street, attracting stray dogs, for 18 days before it could be retrieved.

Asked why he had never left Lebanon for a peaceful and prosperous life abroad, Barbour smiled. "It's like my wife. I married her 35 years ago when she was young and healthy."

"Well, suppose that she, God forbid, gets sick or paralysed. Would I love her any less because of that, would I leave her when she needs me most?"

"No, I will stay and love her even more."

Sharaa to visit Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa will travel to Turkey Thursday for talks likely to include a dispute on sharing the Euphrates River, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said.

A statement said Sharaa and Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer would discuss all aspects of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues.

Ties between Ankara and Damascus have been strained since Turkey diverted the Euphrates for a month in January to fill its Ataturk Dam, centrepiece of an \$11-billion power and irrigation scheme.

Both Syria and Iraq complained their agriculture and power supplies were hurt by the diversion.

Ankara says it let through enough water to more than make up for the shortfall during the cut-off but suggested the three countries cooperate in modernising irrigation methods to make better use of the water.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi last week accused Ankara of not taking the water issue seriously and said it could affect cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry responded Sunday by saying the issue was intentionally being presented to Arab public opinion as a problem.

Ankara has invited ministers from Iraq and Syria to meet later this month to discuss the dispute. Iraq has said it would attend but Syria has not yet replied, the Foreign Ministry sources said.

A ministry official said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who met President Turgut Ozal on a one-day visit Sunday, might offer his country's mediation in the dispute.

But a presidential spokesman said Monday this was not the case.

Kurdish rebels launch biggest raid since 1989

ANKARA (R) — Rebel Kurds launched their most deadly attack for two years Sunday night, killing at least 20 civilians in a remote village in southeastern Turkey.

The raid on Cevimli village, 50 kilometres north of the Iraqi and Syrian borders, showed the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) was still a potent force despite renewed government efforts to stamp out a six-year-old insurgency.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Monday at least 20 civilians, including women and children, were killed by separatist rebels.

Local sources in the regional city of Diyarbakir said the toll could reach 26 and that village guards, later joined by troops, killed one guerrilla in surrounding scrub-land.

Reports of the massacre were scant but the sources said rebels

were believed to have set fire to four houses, charring some bodies inside, before fleeing.

It was the PKK's biggest operation since 25 villagers were killed in nearby Mardin province in May 1983 and suggested that the rebels may be reverting to more attacks on civilians after targeting Turkish troops.

The attack brought to at least 38 the number of people, including rebels, killed in southeastern areas near the Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian frontiers this month.

In May, 97 deaths were reported, believed to be a record for any month since the insurgency for an independent homeland started.

Nearly 2,500 people have been killed in the southeast, home for many of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds, since 1984.

After the bloodiest start to any year since fighting began, the government in April took strict

security measures and clamped curbs on press reporting from the region.

"This latest attack shows the PKK is more effective than people thought they were after apparently increased military operations in the area recently," a Western diplomat said.

Local sources said security forces had patrol posts at five-kilometre intervals in the Cevimli area. But they said movement was often hampered by PKK tactics of mining roads to attacked villages.

Turkey has regular army troops in the southeast — an area about half the size of Italy — and some 30,000 paramilitary gendarmes who have borne the brunt of the fighting, Western military sources said.

Turkey, which also uses police commandos, has tacitly accused Iran, Iraq and Syria of at least harbouring PKK rebels and turn-

ing a blind eye to cross-border hit-and-run raids.

The attack coincides with friction between Ankara and Baghdad and Damascus over the flow of water from the Euphrates River, used for irrigation and power generation in Syria and Iraq.

Turkish officials say the PKK has a major training camp in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley and at least two other camps in Iran near the mountainous border with Turkey.

Foreign Ministry sources say Damascus claims it does not have full control over the PKK's Bekaa activities and has difficulty maintaining tight control on its 880-kilometre border with Turkey.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, a Turkish university dropout, told the mass-circulation daily Hürriyet in an interview in April that his organisation would step up raids in coming months. He also called for talks with Ankara.

Rafsanjani escapes third attempt on his life — report

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has escaped a new attempt on his life, reportedly the third in eight months, Iran's dissident Mujahadeen Khaalq reported Monday.

The group, in a dispatch sent to the Associated Press in Nicosia from Washington, said the attempt was in "late April," but did not provide an exact date.

There reportedly has been at least two previous attempts to kill Rafsanjani, one in October 1989, and one in January this year. The official media in Iran did not confirm either incident, reported by separately by several travellers from Iran.

Rafsanjani, however, has denied the attempts, which the sources then said involved bodyguards trying to shoot the president, but being overpowered by other security men in his entourage.

The Mujahadeen said that in the latest attempt, also one of the bodyguards was planning to "kill Rafsanjani with a revolver while

he was moving from one location to the other." It did not explain if he was at home or on the road.

But other bodyguards spotted him, and the would-be assassin was arrested before being able to pull the trigger, said the statement from Mujahadeen Khaalq, or the people's warriors.

The unattributed six-sentence report did not provide any other detail. It said: "Security measures to protect Rafsanjani increased dramatically" after the incident.

The motivation for the attempt was not known.

But Iran has been gripped by a power-struggle between liberals and hardliners since the death of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a year ago.

Rafsanjani, 55, leads the so-called pragmatists seeking closer relations with the West to end Iran's international isolation and attract foreign investment and expertise needed to rebuild the devastated economy.

Afghan defence minister rules out new coup attempt

KABUL (R) — Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanjar ruled out Monday the possibility of a fresh coup attempt against President Najibullah.

Sitting in his office at the Defence Ministry, from where his predecessor Shahinawaz Tanai launched an abortive coup last March, Watanjar said he had shifted military commanders to prevent against another army rebellion.

"I do not see any possibility of a new coup attempt happening," the four-star general told Reuters in an interview. He declined to give further details.

As he spoke, workmen were busy repairing the ministry building, a former palace, to clear the last traces of the failed March putsch.

The army uprising came slightly more than one year after Soviet troops withdrew, leaving the Kabul government to fight alone against U.S.-backed Muslim guerrillas.

The Defence Ministry building

in south Kabul was heavily damaged by government air and artillery strikes that forced Tanai and his close aides to flee.

Watanjar, like Tanai, has links with the Khaalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). He remained loyal to Najibullah during the coup.

The PDPA has been driven for years by factional infighting between Najibullah's Parcham group and the hardline Khaalqs who dominate the Afghan officer corps.

The morale of the Afghan military was high, Watanjar said. In addition, anti-government guerrillas were laying down their arms, he said.

Last year, some 80,000 Mujahadeen guerrillas gave up their battle and defected to the government, Watanjar said.

About 500 armed groups, comprising 70,000 fighters, have also signed protocols "to observe some kind of a truce with the government," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE	15:30	15:40	15:50	16:00	16:10	16:20	16:30	16:40	16:50	17:00	17:10	17:20	17:30	17:40	17:50	18:00	18:10	18:20	18:30	18:40	18:50	19:00	19:10	19:20	19:30	19:40	19:50	20:00	20:10	20:20	20:30	20:40	20:50	21:00	21:10	21:20	21:30	21:40	21:50	22:00	22:10	22:20	22:30	22:40	22:50	23:00	23:10	23:20	23:30	23:40	23:50	24:00	24:10	24:20	24:30	24:40	24:50	25:00	25:10	25:20	25:30	25:40	25:50	26:00	26:10	26:20	26:30	26:40	26:50	27:00	27:10	27:20	27:30	27:40	27:50	28:00	28:10	28:20	28:30	28:40	28:50	29:00	29:10	29:20	29:30	29:40	29:50	30:00	30:10	30:20	30:30	30:40	30:50	31:00	31:10	31:20	31:30	31:40	31:50	32:00	32:10	32:20	32:30	32:40	32:50	33:00	33:10	33:20	33:30	33:40	33:50	34:00	34:10	34:20	34:30	34:40	34:50	35:00	35:10	35:20	35:30	35:40	35:50	36:00	36:10	36:20	36:30	36:40	36:50	37:00	37:10	37:20	37:30	37:40	37:50	38:00	38:10	38:20	38:30	38:40	38:50	39:00	39:10	39:20	39:30	39:40	39:50	40:00	40:10	40:20	40:30	40:40	40:50	41:00	41:10	41:20	41:30	41:40	41:50	42:00	42:10	42:20	42:30	42:40	42:50	43:00	43:10	43:20	43:30	43:40	43:50	44:00	44:10	44:20	44:30	44:40	44:50	45:00	45:10	45:20	45:30	45:40	45:50	46:00	46:10	46:20	46:30	46:40	46:50	47:00	47:10	47:20	47:30	47:40	47:50	48:00	48:10	48:20	48:30	48:40	48:50	49:00	49:10	49:20	49:30	49:40	49:50	50:00	50:10	50:20	50:30	50:40	50:50	51:00	51:10	51:20	51:30	51:40	51:50	52:00	52:10	52:20	52:30	52:40	52:50	53:00	53:10	53:20	53:30	53:40	53:50	54:00	54:10	54:20	54:30	54:40	54:50	55:00	55:10	55:20	55:30	55:40	55:50	56:00	56:10	56:20	56:30	56:40	56:50	57:00	57:10	57:20	57:30	57:40	57:50	58:00	58:1
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UNRWA seeks urgent aid of \$5m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Vienna-based headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has launched an appeal to the international community for an extra \$5 million to enable the agency to continue its emergency operations in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories for the remaining part of 1990.

The appeal was made by UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli, who called for \$5 million in special contributions to finance the construction of a 200-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip.

"The hospital in Gaza is needed to meet the acute shortage of hospital beds in the strip which is inhabited by 650,000 residents and refugees," Giacomelli said in his annual report presented to representatives of 25 nations and the European Community as well as UNRWA's major donors and the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

Jordan is represented at the meeting by Dr. Ahmad Qatunni, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of

Palestine Affairs

The week-long meeting, which started last Wednesday, was scheduled to review UNRWA's various activities in its fields of operations, emergency programmes and UNRWA's annual budget.

Donor nations attending the meeting expressed support for the agency and stressed the need for continued financial aid to help it carry out its humanitarian services to the refugees.

The meeting paid tribute to UNRWA's staff in providing assistance to the Palestinian refugees and many participants expressed concern over Israel's violations of UNRWA's mandate including detention of agency staff.

UNRWA is a subsidiary organisation of the U.N. General Assembly which began operations in May 1950. It employs international and Palestinian staff in its drive to provide services to the refugees.

Jordan is one of a 10-nation commission helping the agency's commissioner general to carry out his duties.



UNRWA provides health services to 650,000 refugees in Gaza Strip

ACC ministers of energy to discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers of Energy and Electricity in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will meet in Amman Sunday to discuss cooperation among their countries in energy and electricity.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber said that the ministerial meeting will be preceded by a parley of experts and technicians from the concerned ministries in Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Jordan to work out practical programmes for cooperation.

"The technicians will prepare the agenda for their ministers' meeting," Taber said.

Topics on the agenda, he said, will include the prospect of manufacturing spare parts for power stations and power distribution networks. The agenda will also include a plan for linking the national grids of the four countries and an exchange of expertise and information on power systems with a view to achieving full integration in energy and power generation.

Egypt and Jordan are already in the process of linking their national grids through a project which could encompass the other two ACC members and probably other Arab states.



The Baghdad Chamber Ensemble

Iraqi music ensemble to perform in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory, in cooperation with the Iraqi Department of Musical Arts, presents the Baghdad Chamber Ensemble in a concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m., next Saturday (16 June 1990).

The programme includes works by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788), Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), Johann Wen-

zel Kalliwoda (1801-1866), Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880), Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908), Aram Tich Khachaturian (1903-1978) and Iraqi composer Agnis Bashir.

The Baghdad Chamber Ensemble was established in 1987 and has since given more than 40 concerts in the Iraqi capital. It played at the third Babylon International Festival. Its repertoire

includes about 150 compositions covering a wide period in the history of Western music, ranging from baroque to the twentieth century.

The ensemble includes: Agnis Bashir (piano), Leith Abdul Ghani (oboe), Aram Zarasian (violin), Mohammad Ali Abbas (violin and viola), Samir Mohammad Jawad (violin), Ali Hussein Musa (cello), Fikri Bashir (manager).

ICARDA opens seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Amman-based regional office of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) opened Monday a training seminar entitled "Genetic Resources for Crop Improvement."

Attending are 15 delegates from Jordan, Cyprus, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, according to ICARDA officials here.

The seminar consists of lectures and gathering cultivated and wild species of the major field crops of Jordan which group: wheat, barley, lentils, chickpeas and forage crops.

Since being established in 1977, ICARDA was supported by the consultative group on International Agricultural Research, which is a consortium of donor governments and agencies.

ICARDA has been seeking to improve the production of crops through programmes carried out in cooperation with national governments and to strengthen national research capacities in crop production.

Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary-General Sami Sumaa opened the seminar.

QAFHS to examine Maan children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech (QAFHS) plans to conduct a general survey in the governorate of Maan on Saturday to determine the hearing and speech facility among children aged one to six years, according to the foundation's President Hanan Touqan.

She said that examination of children by the foundation's specialists will be free of charge, and the needy children will be supplied with hearing aids also free of charge.

Touqan made the statement during a visit by several ambassadors from Arab and foreign countries to the QAFHS premises where they inspected services offered to the handicapped children.

The foundation, established in 1978, offers services to children and adults alike and provides assistance to the needy handicapped persons. Many of the patients come from other Arab countries. In addition, the foundation has been providing training to local staff.

Seminar on frauds in banking opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day symposium on frauds and violations in banking, held at the Arab Institute for Banking Studies (AIBS) Monday reviewed a working paper focusing on one of four case-studies to be examined by the delegates from around the Arab World.

The paper, presented by Saad Al Rukh, a Kuwaiti economist, focused attention on the case of

Souk Al Manakh in Kuwait and said its collapse in 1982 came as a result of world economic recession and the Iran-Iraq war.

Three other case-studies: the Petra Bank in Jordan, Al Mashrek Bank in Qatar and the Rayyan and other Islamic financial houses in Egypt, are also to be discussed by the seminar which was opened last Saturday.

Jordan to import crops from W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Selected types of crops will be allowed entry into Jordan from the occupied Arab territories over the coming two months, according to a quarterly bulletin issued Monday by Minister of Agriculture Saleman Arabiyat.

The bulletin said limited quantities of garlic, lemons, apricots, plums, potatoes, melons and cactuses will be allowed into Jordan from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip because they are needed by the local markets.

Organisation (AMO) Monday announced that quarterly, rather than monthly, bulletins will be issued from now on concerning Jordan's imports and exports of agricultural crops.

According to a statement, merchants will be allowed to import dates, sage and thyme. The statement said that to encourage exports of crops the ministry will reduce to a minimum previous routine measures and will supply merchants with annual import/export permits.

Council tries to bring Kuwait back

CAEU discusses transfer of base

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Arab ministerial meeting which was held in Cairo last week discussed the prospect of transferring the headquarters of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) from Amman to Cairo, but a decision on the matter has been postponed pending consultations between the Jordanian and Egyptian governments, according to CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim.

The CAEU was originally based in Cairo before it was moved to Amman following Egypt's signing of a separate peace treaty with Israel 11 years ago.

According to Ibrahim, the ministerial meeting discussed the withdrawal of Kuwait from the CAEU and it was decided that Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah should exert his good offices to persuade the Kuwait government to rescind its earlier decision.

Last March Ibrahim issued a statement here appealing to Kuwait to remain a council member, and pledged to introduce all the changes as suggested by the Kuwait government as a condition for retaining its membership.

To meet the Kuwait demands, the CAEU cut the salaries of its staff by up to 25 per cent and reduced the number of employees by 25 per cent.

The CAEU is in financial difficulties resulting from the failure of several Arab states to pay their commitments to the council's budget, and this failure has obstructed the council's work and delayed important services that would have helped bring about Arab economic integration, according to Ibrahim.

"The question of lack of funds was dwelt on during the ministerial meeting in Cairo," Ibrahim said in a statement upon returning to Amman Monday.

According to Ibrahim, failure by Arab governments to pay their financial commitments deprived the CAEU employees of salaries for more than five months now.

At the meeting Ibrahim issued a fervent appeal to the Arab countries to help the CAEU carry on with its duties.

"The ministerial meeting heard an economic report on the CAEU's activities in the first half of this year and reviewed world economic issues and their impact on the Arab economy," Ibrahim said.

He said that the next ministerial meeting will be held in Amman in the first week of December 1990.

Police nab swindlers

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian authorities have arrested a gang of six swindlers who have been in the habit of posing as agents raising funds for the National Jordanian Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Uprising.

Police sources said that the six, who also been involved in cases of embezzlement, forgery and posing as policemen, had raised as much as JD 200,000 in Jordan and the Gulf states.

The police were tipped by a citizen who suspected the behaviour of one of the group, who, at the time, was trying to raise funds and issue receipts for sums collected from worshippers who were leaving a mosque in Qweish south east of Amman, according to police sources.

They said that when questioned the man admitted that he had collected JD 66 from the worshippers that day and that he had been in the business with five others who were immediately apprehended.

The man, identified by the police as MYF, and his group, had printed receipt books which they carried along to issue receipts for people donating for the Palestinian intifada, a task shouldered by the national committee.

He also said that a local printing press had printed for them the receipt books and that their operations were conducted in different parts of the country.

MYF also admitted that the group members had posed as journalists interviewing people being treated in hospital from wounds sustained in confrontation with the Israeli forces; others had toured Gulf states under the pretext of raising funds for the intifada and for the Palestinian students living in Jordan.

They also said that they had interviewed the students and people in refugee camps in Jordan. According to these sources, the police are still investigating the case before referring the culprits to the concerned courts for trial.

Another police report Monday revealed that two thieves have been arrested following a spate of robberies and house-breaking incidents in which jewellery and cash were reported stolen.

A police spokesman said that owners of a number of houses in Jabal Al Taj, Raghadan Bridge, Ashrafieh and Ras Al Ain had reported to the police that thieves had broken open the doors of their homes and made off with bracelets, rings, and other jewellery and cash.

In all the cases, the police said, a sharp tool was used to break open the doors.

In the robberies which took place over the past four months, following a number of clues, the police were able to trace the culprit who was found to have an accomplice. They both admitted to committing the robberies after carefully watching the homes of their victims to ensure that owners were out before forcing their way in.

One of the two men said that he had stolen the stolen jewellery to local goldsmiths with the help of his wife, who had put the gold pieces on pretending they were hers to deceive the buyers.

Names of the thieves were withheld.

Reports about the robberies and the swindlers came as preparations were completed for the opening of a three-day symposium here Tuesday entitled "Crime and Society."

The symposium, organised by the Higher Council for Combating Crime and the Public Security Department (PSD), will tackle such questions as thefts, robberies, dangerous drugs, motives for suicide and juvenile delinquency among others.

Member of the Higher Council, Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, said that the symposium is aimed at enlisting public help for the police force to combat crimes.

Several working papers will be reviewed by the participants who represent various public and private Jordanian institutions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Shanna, Mohammad Asad and Hani Khaza'leh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rafiq Al Laham at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Amman 90" photo exhibition at Amman Municipality public library.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Importance of Early Teaching of Sign Language to Parents of Deaf Children" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.
- ★ Lecture, in French, entitled "La geothermie: origine et utilisation" by Tournays and Demange at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A German video entitled "Die DRR im Umbruch" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ An English-subtitled German film entitled "Frühlingsstimmung" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

TURKISH FILM WEEK

- ★ Feature film entitled "Any Other Woman" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

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An urgent task

JUDGING from the performance of Jordanian exporters in the first five months of this year, signs are good that in 1990 the Kingdom would register almost double its export figure for 1989. It is no wishful thinking or pipedreaming, officials assure us, pointing out that their projections of JD 700 million of exports this year are based on the figure of total exports until May — JD 300 million. Of course, it is good news and let us hope that these figures are realised and reflected in the accounts for 1990.

What is thought-provoking is the fact that there are numerous hurdles that stand in the way of a potential investor who is genuinely interested in setting up a small- or medium-scale export-oriented industry. The sheer bureaucracy and red tape involved in getting a project off the ground sometimes more than discourages a potential investor. We have been hearing about amendments to laws and added incentives to investments, but the problem is these amendments and incentives appear not to have been translated into practical action.

For all practical purposes, Jordan, which imports consumer goods worth over a billion dollars every year, offers a perfectly healthy climate for investments in small-scale industries producing consumer items. Such industries will not only be much-needed import-substituting industries, but also export-oriented if handled in the right way. One would think that it should be relatively easy for any investor with a careful eye on the market to launch an industry with no untoward haphazard procedures and discouraging prerequisites. That is not to say that procedures and prerequisites should be abandoned altogether, leading to unhealthy competition and sub-standard quality products in the local market; regulations should be there, but the superceding factor should be the consideration that the Kingdom stands in need of the implementation of every means to be self-reliant if it is to wrestle successfully with its foreign debts and commitments.

The government has already taken major steps towards simplifying the bureaucracy involved in obtaining necessary permission and operational licences for industries by drafting new legislation. Now, the ball is in the court of parliament, which should waste no time in debating the law and adopting whatever action is needed for it to be implemented, including incorporating amendments if needed to further make the investment and project implementation process easier.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I Monday paid tribute to the Jordanian Armed Forces for its relentless efforts to defend the Arab homeland in the face of aggression. The paper said the Jordanian Armed Forces was born with the outbreak of the Great Arab Revolt earlier this century and since then it has been the source of pride for the Arab Nation because it was involved in confronting colonial powers and now continues to fend off attacks by the enemies of the Arab Nation. The Jordanian people are proud and have confidence in the Jordanian Armed Forces which continues to offer sacrifice for the Arab Nation and continues to bolster the defence of the Arab countries, the paper said. By celebrating the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day in Jordan the people here recall the huge sacrifices and the fallen martyrs since the start of the Great Arab Revolt led by the Hashemite family, the paper added. It said that in celebrating the day Jordanians pay tribute to the Armed Forces and recognise its endeavours to the nation.

NOW THAT the United States has emerged as the sole superpower in the world and since it is openly hostile to the Arabs and their legitimate rights, said a columnist in Al Ra'i, there is no alternative for the Arabs but to pay the Americans in their own coin. Badar Abdul Haq said frankly speaking the Arabs have to display their total hostility to the United States because it is indeed the enemy that protects Israel and constitutes the means for its survival in our land. The writer said that the Arabs can display hostility to the United States by boycotting American goods, a measure that can be taken officially or privately by all citizens. We understand Israel's hostile attitude towards the Arabs because it simply occupies their lands, but the reason behind Washington's open enmity to the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular is difficult to understand, and therefore one can counter the American position through boycotting American goods, the writer added. There is no need to open Arab homes, towns and streets for the Americans now that they are openly fighting on the side of Israel and killing all prospects for peace, he said.

SAWT AL SHAAB echoed King Hussein's warnings to the Arabs that Jordan can no longer stand the enemy onslaught and is by no means able to fend off new aggression on the Arab Nation. The paper said that with the new government in Israel bent on stifling the intifada and expanding Israel's borders through the absorption of more Jews, the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular are facing a new threat to their existence. The paper recalled the King's words that Israel has now succeeded in dealing a devastating blow to all peace bids and is intent on pursuing aggression in our land. It said that one cannot evade danger by concealing his head in the sand, and therefore there is urgent need for the Arabs to wake up to the realities and try to defend the Arab Order and Arab security.

THE VIEW FROM FOURTH CIRCLE

Mr. Shamir, frozen beans and the Palestine issue

WE HAVE just witnessed a series of unfortunate events which seem to be pushing the Middle East region back into a familiar cycle of emotionalism and militarism. Those events include the killing of scores of Palestinians by Israelis (working individually or through the armed forces), the American veto of the U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a fact-finding mission to Palestine, the attempted operation by Palestinian commandos in Tel Aviv, and the formation of a hardline right-wing Israeli government headed by that seasoned killer Yitzhak Shamir.

The moment is fraught with danger, perhaps even potential catastrophe. Therefore, it is particularly important today that the Arab World does not succumb to the kind of emotional rage which has often hurt us more than it has helped us in the past. Not only are the events of the region intensifying pressures which may promote short-term extremism, fanaticism and militarism on both sides. We are also dealing in a wider international psychological, emotional and political environment which has both good and bad news for the Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims.

The Arab objective should not be to strut around like roosters, only to end up acting like turkeys. Rather, this is the moment for calm and calculated analysis. We need to appreciate clearly the factors at play in the region and around the world, and develop a strategy which exploits our strong points and counters the weak ones.

The wider international context is a problem. In the Western World, particularly among the moral basketcases who comprise much of the United States Congress, the talk these days is often about the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction among Arab countries, particularly Iraq, Libya and Syria — the message being that only white folks like Americans, Israelis and South Africans are allowed to possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, while the rest of us dark folks are supposed to bow and scrape, shuffle a lot and ("hey, Momma, pass the watermelon...") thank the Lord that we are alive.

The spectre of anti-Semitism is hovering over Europe and North America once again. As Israel cannot provide credible legal or moral arguments to justify its continued killing, beating, deporting, and general disenfranchisement of the Palestinians, the spectre of anti-Semitism becomes an effective means of diverting international attention away from the essential injustice which Zionists, Jews, Israelis and fellow-travellers have inflicted on the Palestinians in Palestine. Instead of reaching back into the rich moral reservoir of Jewish ethics and working with other victims of discrimination to rid the world of inequity, Israel and Zionism stress the narrow perspective of self-interest. Therefore, we hear: Save the Jews. Let Soviet Jews emigrate in large numbers to Israel. Who cares what

happens to the Palestinians. Settling hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews in Palestine is the only thing that matters. Palestinian rights be damned. And the money for all this comes from Washington.

Simultaneously, the Israeli-American combine is once again trying to elevate Islam to the status of the Greatest Immediate Threat to White Folks and Western Civilisation. With the adversarial menace of communism waning, and the PLO maintaining its peace strategy, Israel needs to generate a new bogey man, in order to maintain its self-promoted role as the protector of Western interests and the White Man's Civilisation in this part of the world.

The worst scenario is that we are heading into an inevitable war in which both sides will use weapons of mass destruction. Israel will attack Arab capitals with nuclear weapons in order to kill Arabs by the million, while the Arabs will use chemical and biological weapons to kill as many Israelis as possible. For the Jews, it will be another, largely self-inflicted holocaust — because the Jews did not respond when the Arabs held out the hand of coexistence and equal rights for all. For the Arabs, it will be the lessons of history writ large and in blood — just over 800 years after Salahuddin (Saladin) threw the Crusaders out of Jerusalem, the modern invaders and colonisers of Palestine once again shall have been thrown out of the land by force, with great loss of life on both sides.

This worst scenario is not very attractive, and should be avoided, if possible. But it may be getting more and more difficult to avoid what may be the logical conclusion of the Zionist experiment in intolerance and self-glorifying exclusivity. If Zionists insist on perpetuating the fantasy of the Jews as God's chosen people, enjoying moral and political rights above and beyond those of the rest of humankind, then they should not be surprised if their self-aggrandizement ends up in a ball of messianic fire.

The new Israeli government headed by Yitzhak Shamir promises to crush the intifada, and putting Ariel Sharon in charge of settlements and new housing promises to bring the Palestinian-Zionist confrontation in Palestine to a head. The likelihood is that the blinkered defiance of the new Israeli government will push the region to new heights of extremism and violence, which will intensify international recognition of the need to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through achieving Palestinian rights of national self-determination.

Our most difficult challenge today is to maintain our diplomatic offensive in the face of rising Israeli extremism and intransigence. We must bring to our struggle today the physical courage, moral fortitude and political acumen of the man who stood before the tanks in Tiananmen Square, the children who were not afraid of policemen in Soweto, and the American men and women who

defied the dogs and the bullets as they marched for civil rights in the American South in the 1950s and 1960s.

If Judaism is reaching the zenith of its historical distortion and its moral disfiguration in the form of an Israeli government characterised by men who kill, we should respond to this tragedy by refusing to be swallowed up in the frenzy of Zionist intolerance, militarism and violence. Let them kill. Let us reaffirm the principles of life and justice.

Translated into diplomacy, this means that the Palestinians and the Arabs are entering perhaps the most trying period since the policy of offering coexistence to Israel was first formally articulated in 1982. Signs from North America, Europe and the rest of the world indicate that there is growing impatience with Israeli intransigence. This impatience will increase with the new government of Shamir and Co. The intifada will intensify and perhaps change its character. Israel will be more and more isolated.

The people of Israel will have to respond to these developments, making it clear once and for all whether they wish to negotiate a just and reasonable peace with the Palestinians and the other Arabs, or whether they wish to fight it out to the end. They will have to declare whether the advent of Shamir and Co. is the swansong and the last gasp of the killer mentality, or whether it is the start of a grotesque and bloody new era in Jewish history.

The Arab role in this dynamic is to emphasise to the Israelis, and to Jewish people and Zionists everywhere, that Israel must make this choice. The dictates of Arab morality and the punctilio of diplomacy both require that we persevere with our peace strategy at this delicate moment, so that the burden of stalemate and human suffering falls squarely on Israel's shoulders. The Palestinian/Arab peace strategy is not a bag of frozen beans with an expiration date of two years from production. It is the diplomatic and moral high point of a historic struggle that spans this entire century. In the early years of the century, the Palestinians were degraded by the world. In these closing years of the century, the Palestinians are increasingly the focus of international attention, concern and activism. Mr. Shamir will make this all the more evident.

Yet, we also need to make it clear to Israel that our patience is not unlimited. The Israelis must choose between war and peace. They cannot have perpetual stalemate, and eternal subjugation of the Palestinians. In this context, the U.S.-PLO dialogue, the American veto of the U.N. resolution, and whether or not the PLO clearly denounces the attempted commando raid near Tel Aviv become less strident, less significant, and less lasting episodes. They are the noise that distracts us from the larger mission of assuring justice for all in Palestine. If morally crazed men in Israel or their politically dazed friends in Washington insist on making distracting noises, let them swallow in the consequences of their actions.

LETTERS

Different sides, same coin

To the Editor:

ON JULY 2, 1776, nearly 214 years ago, the struggling congress of a British colony voted for independence. Two days later, this same congress published the Declaration of Independence. It was written by Thomas Jefferson and addressed "to the opinions of mankind."

One of the many grievances of this new American Congress was "taxation without representation," of which one result was the famed Boston Tea Party where cargoes of tea were confiscated, destroyed, or turned back to England.

Generations of Americans have been brought up revering the heroes of the American War of Independence from Britain.

What brands one man a hero and another a terrorist? Today, those same people who once shed their noble blood for democracy have hardened their hearts to a struggle more noble and valiant than ever fought by the heroes of the American revolution. The intifada is an internal war fought by each and every Palestinian within the occupied territories. Each city, town and family has contributed to and has been struck by this impossible war. Many of the victims are children who either die, are tortured, are mutilated and are permanently disfigured either mentally, physically or both by war of no mercy.

A large percentage of Americans view Palestinians in general as "terrorists." Some at first, for a time, almost sympathetic with some of the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian civilian population, have by now become "compassion fatigued."

Meanwhile, Israeli aggression continues unabated. How ironic that the very people who are supposed to be paragons of democracy have such a blinded ONE eye towards the daily tragedy enacted against the entire Palestinian population but when a group of Palestinian guerrillas who are freedom fighters, tries to penetrate Israel from without, such as the sea raid of June 2, Americans become an Argus (the one hundred-eyed monster of Greek legend).

With the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, the Arabs at first thought that the prevailing winds were democratic and that some of the winds would shift to Israel and miraculously favour those Palestinians who have suffered so much.

Instead, the Eastern European countries have consolidated with Western European countries forming a bloc against the Arab World. At the same time, the Soviet Union permits a continual flow of Jews into the occupied territories at the expense of again the Palestinian people.

Now, the Baltic republics are hailed by Americans as a people fighting for their freedom from the Soviet Union. How much difference is there between the Baltics and the rest of the Soviet Union? Are these people truly suppressed and denied all personal and collective liberties like the Palestinians under Israeli rule?

Instead, Israel is still defined by most countries as being democratic while the Palestinians under occupation are dying for the very meaning of democracy. In practice, Israel is the most racist country in the world.

Once more the Americans used their veto at the U.N. this time regarding a dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. As long as the Israelis have moral support of and financial aid from the Americans, they will continue their vicious campaign to exterminate the Palestinian people. The Americans will remain Argus-eyed to those Palestinians who struggle for their revolution of freedom, forgetting that not long ago they once fought (because of considerable less oppressions) for their own independence.

American and Soviet ties are becoming more cordial as seen in Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to America. The long era of the "cold war" is almost disappearing. But, are the Palestinians any better off than before? In fact, what bleak prospects do Jordan and all the Arab states face as the influx of Soviet Jews continues, enabling the Zionist dream of a "greater Israel" to become in fact, a stark reality. We are finding ourselves more and more sandwiched between the Soviet Union and America, different sides of the same coin. Where now is the conscience of mankind?

E. Yaghi

Aquino poised to signal her plans

By Jeremy Clift
Reuters

MANILA — In the clearest signal so far that she may run for another term, President Corazon Aquino will announce the formation of a new political movement Tuesday, Philippine Independence Day.

Press Secretary Thomas Gomez said it was "premature" to say the 57-year-old widow was launching her own political party, and denied that it meant Aquino would stand for re-election in 1992.

But few political commentators believed him. "The common perception is that this 'movement' will eventually metamorphose into a political party from which Mrs. Aquino will launch her bid for re-election in 1992," the independent Philippine daily Inquirer said in an editorial on Sunday.

The movement is designed to rekindle the broadly based support that swept Aquino to office in a 1986 "people power" revolt that ended the 20-year authoritarian rule of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

But it could put her on a direct collision course with leaders of the present political coalition backing her government, led by her younger brother, Congressman Jose Cojuangco.

"I have nothing to say. You can not get anything from me right now," Cojuangco told reporters.

Gomez said disappointment with the existing political parties prompted Aquino to form the movement.

Four years after Aquino was catapulted to power in the popular revolt, the country of 60 million people is split by political infighting, threatened by Communist guerrillas, rocked by repeated rumours of another coup

attempt by army rebels and plagued by corruption.

The Aquino government is in the middle of negotiations on the future of major U.S. military bases in the country. The American bases provide thousands of Filipino families with livelihoods, but also provide nationalists with a rallying point for their claim that the former colonial power has too much influence in their country.

Economic gains have been pared by a persistent electric power shortage and squabbles over major foreign investment projects, while at least half the country lives below the government's official poverty line.

Aquino has repeatedly denied that she will stand for a fresh term in 1992, describing herself as a transition president whose task was to restore democracy after the Marcos dictatorship and put the economy back on track.

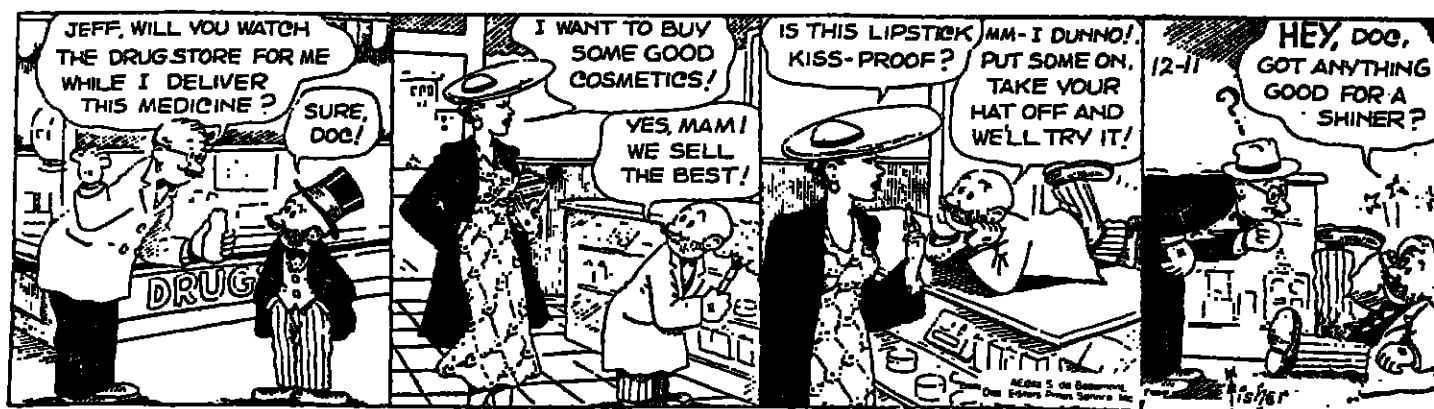
If she stood again, she would be the front runner among a host of possible candidates, who could include her estranged cousin, wealthy industrialist and former Marcos associate Eduardo Cojuangco.

The new movement will be known by the Filipino name "Katipunan" or union, which has strong nationalistic echoes back to the fight against Spanish colonial rule at the end of the last century.

Suggestions that Aquino may seek re-election, even if untrue, are likely to fuel resentment among reformist groups in the armed forces who see the former housewife as a weak leader and want her removed.

Aquino has survived six coup attempts by right-wing rebels within the military in the past four years. The armed forces have been on full alert because of widespread rumours of a possible new putsch this month.

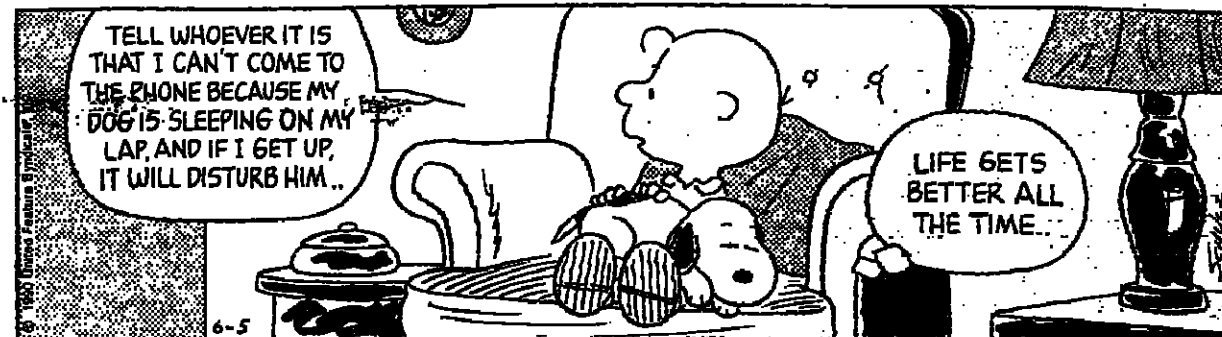
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



AFP, in the eyes of its new chairman: Independent, balanced and diversified

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hard work and dedication pays off. Not always. But for one dedicated hard working journalist, 33 years of reporting paid off last January when he was appointed chairman of the board and general manager, or PDG as the French call it, of the organisation to which he had dedicated the better part of his life.

The man chasing the news is veteran journalist Claude Moisy, the organisation, the offspring of the world's oldest international news agency, Agence France Press, otherwise known simply as AFP.

After a disagreement between AFP board members, as to who would be the next PDG came to a head, Moisy was nominated and elected. For the second time in its long history a journalist, not a bureaucrat was put at the helm of AFP.

Last week, Moisy chaired an annual meeting of regional directors of AFP offices in the Middle Eastern region. Despite his busy schedule, he found time to talk with the Jordan Times on his experiences and agency's work.

Moisy seems well aware that there are disgruntled parties in the developing world who feel they are not getting their "fair share" of coverage in the international media.

By definition the lack of coverage would be due to the failure of the big three international news agencies (Reuters, Associated Press and AFP), in covering issues on the "periphery of hot spots for the Western hemisphere." But the coverage allotted to issues in the developing world by AFP, Moisy feels, has been balanced in terms of actual coverage given.

"AFP tailors its various news services to the different areas in the world it caters to," he says.

Moisy, who spent 10 years between North and South America after having worked for AFP in North Africa, Asia and London among other places, is very sensitive to the issue of "which countries or areas get more coverage" in the news.

"AFP is not geared to publication in French newspapers alone. We are an international agency and as such it is our responsibility to cover news as and where it happens," he maintains.

While not willing to discuss the role of the "three big" news agencies, and their role in the new world information order, he is well aware of his organisation's role in the development of national news agencies world wide.

"There is as much cooperation as competition with national news agencies. We attempt to give assistance wherever possible and in that sense we are doing our best to explore new possibilities of cooperation," Moisy says.

"There is much more news trading going on than meets the eye."

In areas where AFP has local language distribution, news trading is more frequent than elsewhere and thus cooperation is naturally stronger.

AFP provides technical help to many of the world's national news agencies and according to Moisy trains people as well.

"Our service covers almost every country. Through regional, if not country, offices, the AFP services is distributed in 6 languages: French, English, Spanish, German, Arabic and Portuguese."

"The various services are tailored to the different areas," explains Moisy. "It's a matter of catering to clients in different geographical locations which have different local, regional and international priorities."

According to the AFP chairman, the autonomous status of his organisation has allowed the agency to be relatively free of the pressures that national news agencies have to operate under.

"As an autonomous international news agency we are free to report world events as they are. After all a responsible news service cannot cheat in dealing with world events."

The independence of the AFP did not always exist and was earned after hard lessons in relatively unbiased reporting were learned.

Heves was the name of the original French news agency when it was created in 1835. The agency, a private enterprise, was considered "the" French news agency up until the end of World War II.

After the war Heves was nationalised by the French government after having been accused of cooperating with the pro-Nazi Vichy government. As it began its operation as a nationalised news agency, it went under the name of Agence France Press, the name it carries to date.

At the time, during the questionable involvement of the French government in Algeria and Indochina in particular, AFP began its internationalisation.

The "national agency" lasted until 1957 because, as Moisy puts it, "a news service run by a government is not credible."

Since then AFP has been an autonomous body, run by commercial law and a board of trustees which consists mostly of French newspaper editors.

Although Moisy does not doubt that the big three news agencies will someday be joined by a fourth, and possibly a fifth news agency to view for the world news market, that time has not yet come.

Of TASS, the official Soviet news organ which has offices around the world, Moisy says, "TASS has a good chance of becoming a big independent news agency. That time has not yet come, however, because it is not yet recognised as autonomous from the state."

He believes that a combined news agency of a united Germany may also grow to more international stature than the one that presently exists.

Japan, which has one of the largest daily circulations of any single newspaper worldwide (10 million copies sold per day), is still not one of the countries that is expected to establish an international news agency, mainly because of a certain language barrier, Moisy thinks.

"The Japanese have one of the largest and most competitive newspaper markets in the world. They are avid readers, and one particular newspaper sells more copies daily in Japan than any paper in the Arab

World sells across the board."

One of the main topics of concern to Moisy and all news-paper men in the 1990's is the visual media threat to what is known as the printed media.

On the agenda of all the local and regional meetings held by members of AFP staff, whether the participants are those working for one of the nine AFP Middle East offices or elsewhere, is the costly adaptation of the newspaper industry as the twenty-first century draws closer to us.

"Our international photo service, which we launched five years ago, is doing very well, but there are other aspects which deal with the ever increasing visual aspect of the news to which we must pay attention," Moisy says.

"There is no doubt about it, the electronic-visual media have reduced the growth of the printed media almost everywhere. I believe that in the long run the printed media will eventually diminish in importance," Moisy says, half heartedly, that one of the few exceptions may be Germany.

While he admits that AFP has toyed with the concept of diversifying its outlets for news through visual news coverage, he says the time has not yet come to make the enormous investment it would take to do that.

"We are investing in some visual news techniques. First it was the photo service. Now it is graphic designs, which are increasingly used to tell a story. Soon we will have a graphic design service available to our Arabic language service," Moisy says.

Will any new offices be set up in the Middle East any time in the near future? "Not for now," and although the Middle East is "on" the periphery of the Western hemisphere at the moment AFP, like so many other world organisations, is busy opening new offices in Moscow, Berlin, Bucharest and Budapest.

Meanwhile, news around the world continues to happen and Moisy boards yet another plane because even as a PDG he must continue to make sure that his news agency is there to report events as they happen.

you look at Kobori's character, this type of Japanese has yet to be born," Mechai said in an interview.

"With Kobori's notions about the heart being more important than flag and country, he would have been put in jail — or at least given a low-ranking job in a Japanese corporation."

Some within the large Japanese community here agree that this type of Japanese has yet to be born.

"Khuu Kam" is the best pro-Japanese propaganda to come along in years. But local newspapers and magazines have reported that a segment of that community is critical, noting a Kobori type did not exist in the Imperial Army. Some reportedly have taken offence at a scene in which Kobori releases an American prisoner of war and at depictions of Japanese soldiers as lax and rude.

Many Thais say the hero of the series is an effective antidote to the hard-edged "Ugly Japanese" image in Thailand, where the Japanese are resented by many for their aggressive business dealings and alleged attempts to gain an economic stranglehold on the country.

One Thai who has criticised aspects of Japanese behaviour is Mechai Viravaiya, a leading development expert and former actor who portrayed Kobori in the first adaptation in 1969.

"This is very, very good public relations for the Japanese. But if

have been writing the producers, pleading for a change to the tragic ending. Others have proposed marriage to the show's stars.

The series is based on a still enormously popular novel written by Vimol Siripaboon in the late 1960s. It tells of a Japanese officer who falls in love with a Thai college undergraduate during World War II.

Although Kobori carries his army sword even into the bedroom, he is willing to do anything for his love, even neglect some of his soldierly duties. Angsamalin, the Thai woman, hides her own strong feelings for him out of Thai patriotism until the moment Kobori dies in an allied bombing raid.

This already have seen the novel adapted twice on the screen and twice for television.

The popularity of the latest

version, on television Channel 7, stems in large part from the appeal of Tongchai McIntyre, one of Thailand's top pop singers. The handsome son of a Thai mother and Scottish father puts in a soulful performance.

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Acupuncture is their last hope

By Servet Yildirim
Reuter

ANKARA — Fifteen men and women await their turns, listening to high-pitched Chinese music in a large room adorned with Far Eastern decorations.

Engineer, Ozcan Ozkoceli, 29, draws hungrily on a cigarette he hopes will be his last. "I've been smoking for 12 years," he says. "I've tried to quit many times but the results were frustrating."

"Acupuncture seems to be the final hope."

The ancient Chinese therapy of sticking fine needles at certain points of the body has gained popularity in Turkey in the last decade.

Some 2,000 doctors now practice acupuncture, mainly on patients who hope to lose weight or quit smoking. The cost has so far restricted its appeal to a well-to-do minority seeking an alternative to Western medicine.

Only 10 of the doctors, however, have specialist degrees in acupuncture and more than 100 people with no medical qualifications at all are practicing the technique, medical sources said.

Some advocates claim acupuncture may be used to treat almost any ailments. Critics dismiss it as, at best, no better than Western medicine.

But while the debate continued the authorities are making plans for control, requiring doctors to attend courses and obtain licences before performing acupuncture, Ferhan Ozmen, Undersecretary at the Health Ministry, told Reuters.

Dr. Ali Sezen, trained in the therapy at a Sri Lankan university, says that "overweight patients can easily lose 25 kilograms in two months by acupuncture. It also gives very good results in treatment of Asthma and infertility."

"Acupuncture is simply the self-renewal of the human body. It resets the disrupted energy balance of the body which is the main cause for illnesses."

"Our bodies have more than 12,000 sensitive points. The only thing acupuncture does is to arouse them with pins and direct the body to repair the malfunctioning part," Sezen said.

But Professor Cankat Tolunay of Ankara University's medical school said that "acupuncture has been exaggerated in Turkey. It has a scientific basis but it is only a treatment method. Its pain-relieving aspect has been proved but it is not superior to modern medicine."

A satisfied patient, Murat Canbolat, said that "thanks to acupuncture, I lost 37 kilograms in two months. Now when I get sick, I prefer to go to an acupuncture doctor."

Another patient, Hidayet Kaya, said: "I have had acupuncture to give up smoking. But I think it only had a psychological effect on me, not a physical one."

"I haven't smoked for 12 days but I still miss cigarettes," he said, fidgeting with his key ring.

An hour-long acupuncture session to stop smoking costs 165,000 lira (\$65) in Turkey where the minimum monthly wage is about 225,000 lira (\$89). A visit to the family doctor costs 60,000 lira (\$23).

Vatican vs demons A battle of faith in Turin

By Stephen R. Wilson
Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — Real or imagined, the devil is tormenting this sober industrial city in north-western Italy.

Some believe a sinister presence lurks in the shadows along the city's broad, arcaded boulevards and haunts the medieval squares in the nearby mountain hamlets of the Piedmontese Alps.

The city likes to be remembered as the former seat of the house of Savoy dynasty, the first capital of a unified Italy, the resting place of saints and religious relics, the home of the Fiat auto empire.

It's also the home of the shroud of Turin, which some believe was the cloth with which Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the body of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion.

But Turin has a darker reputation as a haven for Satan and his disciples.

There is no proof, of course. But what is certain is that the city has six official exorcists, an underground core of devil worshippers and thousands of people dealing in the occult.

Specialists in the occult maintain that Turin forms of two "magic" triangles representing good and evil.

Along with Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Lyon, France, the city is reputedly a centre of "white magic," a positive force. Turin is also said to join London and San Francisco as a stronghold of "black magic," which is considered harmful or diabolic.

"Turin has always been a place of great spiritual and magical ferment," says Giuditte Dembech, a journalist and author of the book "Torino: Citta Magica" (Turin: Magic City). "It has some of the qualities of places like Mecca, Jerusalem and Lourdes."

The city first attracted widespread notoriety as devil's playground four years ago when Turin's archbishop at the time, Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, appointed six official exorcists.

Exorcism, the process of casting out demons, is an accepted practice in the Roman Catholic church. Pope John Paul II has frequently stated that the devil is a pervasive reality in today's world.

The naming of the six exorcists in Turin followed a directive from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican's congregation for the doctrine of the faith, for churches to exercise greater control over exorcisms.

"Unfortunately some of our priests had gone a little too far and were performing exorcisms too hastily," says Canon Giuseppe Ruata, who heads Turin's pool

of official exorcists.

Two events in 1988 further contributed to the city's satanic image.

First, the Pope spoke of the devil during a visit to Turin, saying: "from the history of salvation, we know that where there are saints there is also another person who presents himself not by his name but the name of others. He is called the prince of this world, the demon."

Then, a month later, Turin hosted a weeklong conference on demonology that bitterly divided local politicians, churchmen and academics.

Church officials deny Turin has a greater problem with the devil than any other cities, pointing out that Milan tops Italy with eight exorcists of its own. Milan has a population of 1.5 million, compared with Turin's 1 million.

"Turin has an image it doesn't deserve," Ruata, 74, said in an interview at the Archdiocesan offices. "I wouldn't make Turin out to be the capital of the demonic empire."

Most agree, however, that Turin has an unusually high number of magicians, seers, faith healers, mind readers, astrologers and others dabbling in superstition and witchcraft. They advertise continuously on private television and radio.

"There are more than 100 of these types of agencies in Turin," Ruata says. "They charge \$400 as the initial fee for removing a spell. It's a huge form of trickery."

Ruata says he is approached every day by people who believe they are possessed by the demon. Nearly all, he says, are people with psychological problems or are superstitious.

Actual demonic possession occurs in "perhaps 2 or 3 per cent" of the cases, Ruata says. He says he has personally performed only one real exorcism.

"Real diabolical possession involves a great aversion for the sacred," he says. "The possessed will spew out terrifying curses and speak foreign languages which they never learned. Sometimes levitation occurs. They rise up, then fall back like a sack of potatoes. It's horrible. Then the phenomenon goes away and they don't remember anything."

While there are people in Turin who turn the church to combat demons, there are others who pay devotion to Satan in secret, ritualistic ceremonies.

Ruata says devil worshippers have robbed churches of hosts, the bread consecrated for the eucharist, and other objects for use in "black masses."

Gianluigi Marianini, a Turin television personality, political fi-

gure and demonologist, claims the city has 40,000 satanic followers.

"The ones I've known are everyday people," says Marianini, 71, stroking his white goatee. "They don't give any outward sign of anything. They just have this dark corner of their lives. They are usually people who are frustrated with their lives and choose this parallel religion out of disillusionment."

Dembech, the author, disputes the 40,000 figure.

"It's already hard enough to find 40,000 perfect Christians," she writes. "The real satanists in this city can be counted on one hand."

Turin's devil worshippers have sometimes left behind signs of their activities.

Last year, for example, a satanic cult was blamed for desecrating an ancient church in the suburb of Pianezza, plundering the tombs of clerics buried there centuries ago and using the bones for some macabre ritual.

The bones were found scattered around the church and some tombstones were crushed.

Marianini says several young girls found murdered in the countryside south of Turin in recent years have born signs of ritual sacrifice.

"The girls were killed by sword or dagger, their money and jewelry were untouched and there was no sexual assault," he says.

Marianini says he's seen basement temples used for black masses. They are equipped with a black marble altar, an upside-down crucifix, black candles and wooden balls "which said to contain pieces of human hearts," he says.

During black masses, according to eyewitness accounts, participants at times show up hooded and the ritual sometimes ends in sexual orgies.

An example of the undesired attention given the devil occurred in 1988 when the murders of a young Turin couple were blamed on a satanic ritual, drawing such lurid headlines in the normally staid local newspaper, La Stampa, as "fear of the devil killed them."

Last month, a court put an end to the hysteria, ruling they were victims of a cocaine ring. "The devil acquitted," said La Stampa.

The Rev. John Navone, an American theologian at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, believes satanism is no more prevalent in Turin or Italy than in other modern, industrial societies.

"What about Los Angeles or Miami or Seattle?" he asks. "I think there is probably more satanism in the United States than Italy."

PLO condemns attacks on civilians

(Continued from page 1)

from condemning it. He also pointed out that Abu Abbas was elected to the PLO Executive Committee by the Palestine National Council (PNC) and therefore only the PNC had the power to remove him from the ruling body.

Informed sources in Baghdad and Cairo quoted by the Associated Press said the PLO had issued the statement in a bid to mollify the U.S. and continue the dialogue. But the sources said the statement was unlikely to satisfy the Americans.

U.S. President George Bush said last week that he was considering calling off the dialogue after Arafat failed to condemn outright the attack near Tel Aviv.

Swedish involvement in efforts to avoid a break in the dialogue was reported from Baghdad, where a special envoy of Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson met with Arafat three times this week. The envoy, Mathias Mossberg, arrived in the Iraqi capital at the weekend and delivered a message from Andersson to the PLO chairman. Andersson helped initiate the U.S.-PLO dialogue in December 1988.

The PLO executive committee, which held a two-day meeting in

Baghdad last week, accused the U.S. administration of using the PLF attack as an excuse to break off the dialogue.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd sent a message to Arafat through the British ambassador to Iraq, the AP said.

In December 1988, Arafat denounced terrorism and recognised Israel, opening the way for the U.S.-PLO dialogue to begin. Since then there have been regular meetings between PLO officials and the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau. The last meeting was held Saturday between Pelletreau and PLO Representative Hakam Balout.

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BASEBALL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Following are the results of major league baseball games played Sunday:

American League

Cleveland Indians	4	Boston Red Sox	0
Oakland Athletics	3	Kansas City Royals	2
New York Yankees	3	Baltimore Orioles	2
Detroit Tigers	5	Seattle Mariners	3
Chicago White Sox	5	Minnesota Twins	3
Toronto Blue Jays	13	Milwaukee Brewers	5
Texas Rangers	2	California Angels	1

National League

New York Mets	8	Pittsburgh Pirates	3
Chicago Cubs	7	Philadelphia Phillies	3
San Francisco Giants	9	Atlanta Braves	3
St. Louis Cardinals	5	Montreal Expos	2
Houston Astros	4	Cincinnati Reds	2
San Diego Padres	2	Los Angeles Dodgers	1 (10)

American League Eastern Division

	Won	Lost	Winning percentage	Games back
Boston Red Sox	24	26	.564	—
Toronto Blue Jays	31	26	.552	1/2
Baltimore Orioles	32	29	.491	4
Milwaukee Brewers	28	28	.481	4 1/2
Detroit Tigers	26	32	.458	6
Cleveland Indians	27	30	.444	6 1/2
New York Yankees	24	35	.352	11 1/2
	19			

Western Division

Oakland Athletics	17	29	.369	—
Chicago White Sox	38	19	.642	3
Minnesota Twins	34	26	.536	8 1/2
California Angels	30	29	.500	10 1/2
Seattle Mariners	29	31	.475	12
Texas Rangers	28	33	.421	15
Kansas City Royals	24	33	.400	16
	22			

National League Eastern Division

Pittsburgh Pirates	22	22	.500	—
Montreal Expos	34	25	.554	3
Philadelphia Phillies	31	26	.519	5
New York Mets	28	27	.491	6 1/2
St. Louis Cardinals	26	32	.439	9 1/2
Chicago Cubs	25	32	.439	9 1/2
	25			

Western Division

Cincinnati Reds	18	25	.454	—
San Diego Padres	34	25	.545	3 1/2
Los Angeles Dodgers	30	29	.491	8 1/2
San Francisco Giants	28	30	.474	9 1/2
Houston Astros	27	34	.404	13 1/2
Atlanta Braves	23	32	.396	13 1/2
	21			

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HUSSEIN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?	Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?	Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?	Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?	Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?	Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?	Q.8—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K542 ♠J43 ♠Q8 ♠1053 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?

Dutch fear Egyptian surprise

PALERMO (R) — The Netherlands open their World Cup campaign against outsiders Egypt Tuesday confident of victory but alive to the dangers of taking their opponents too lightly.

The European champions are expected to cruise past the Egyptian but Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker is determined to avoid complacency among his players and is using Cameroon's shock win over Argentina to reinforce his message.

"We talk of smaller soccer countries but these are just countries we have less contact with. All World Cup nations have learnt to defend and are well-prepared physically," Beenhakker said.

"You can't say a match is easy before you've actually played it," he added.

Beenhakker has confidence in a team featuring outstanding players such as Frank Rijkaard and Marco Van Basten, which many believe can lift the cup now that captain Ruud Gullit has returned after a serious knee injury.

"We've got class in the team. It's now a question of going out and won't be an upset as players are human," he added.

Egypt, appearing in the finals for the first time since 1934, have prepared meticulously for their Group F games where they will also meet England and Ireland.

Coach Mahmoud Al Gohari has had his squad together for the past six months and played 12 friendly internationals. Results have improved with recent away wins over Scotland and Czechoslovakia.

"I'm very happy with our preparations. We've worked very hard for a long time and now we're ready," he said.

"Of course I'm worried about playing the Dutch but they're a great team any coach would be nervous about facing them, not just me," he added.

Egypt's strength is a defence which conceded just two goals in eight qualifying matches, with goalkeeper Ahmad Shubair highly-rated. Scoring goals has proved more of a problem, with

Egypt finding the target just seven times in their 12 war-up games.

But Al Gohari promised his team would not sit back and try to frustrate the Dutch with a blanket defence.

"We hope to get the balance right between defence and attack and play good football," he said.

His only injury worry is striker Hossam Hassan, whose twin brother Ibrahim plays right-back. Hassan was withdrawn from training Saturday with a leg strain but says he will be fit.

The Dutch have selection problems in midfield where Erwin Koeman is struggling for fitness after a knee operation and Jan Wouters and Gerald Vanenburg both have ankle strains, with Wouters looking the more doubtful of the two.

Richard Witschge will come in if Koeman is declared unfit while Vanenburg will probably return to partner Gullit and Rijkaard in a four-man midfield if he recovers and Wouters is ruled out.

S Korea considers Belgium easiest prey

VERONA (R) — Underdogs South Korea need a win against Belgium Tuesday to have any realistic chance of qualifying in a group rated the toughest in the World Cup first round.

"If we want to go through, we have to win at least one match — the one against Belgium," South Korea's coach Lee Hoe-Taik said. Belgium will be thinking the same of South Korea.

Lee said he was also aiming for a draw in one of the two other first-round Group E matches against Uruguay and Spain. That should be enough to take the Asians to the second round for the first time in three World Cup attempts.

He said he had the most respect for Spain whom he described as semifinal candidates, but he knew Belgium would not be a walkover.

His hope was that Belgium would run true to form, rising to

the occasion when forced into the role of underdogs but faltering against weaker opponents.

Belgium's national coach Guy Thys will not be complacent against South Korea.

Four years ago, the Koreans went out in the first round after a heroic battle against Italy which they lost 3-2. This time they romped through the qualifying round with an impressive 30-1 goal difference.

"They (South Korea) are difficult opponents. In fact, there are no easy opponents any more," Thys said.

Thys, who also led Belgium during their 1982 and 1986 campaigns, still has to solve the problem of his central defence. He has tried out several combinations in three friendly matches over the past two weeks but has yet to find the best solution.

Lee too has seen gaps in the heart of the Belgian defence and

has remodelled his formation to take full advantage.

In the new-look line-up, winger Byun Byung-Joo, nicknamed "the bullet" for his speed and ferocious shooting, will feed prolific scorers Kim Joo-Sung, dubbed "little Samson" and Choi Soon-Ho, Asia's leading striker.

Lee may also welcome the expected absence from Thys's line-up of menacing striker Jan Ceulemans, Belgium's leading player for the past decade but slower on the ball recently and dogged by a back problem.

But the Belgian coach is not the only one with worries. Lee will have to rely on his second goalkeeper Choi In-Young after the 1.91-metres tall Kim Pung-Joo injured his right knee in a friendly match with Spartak Moscow recently. He may be fit again until the last opening-round match against Uruguay on June 21.

Matthaeus earns accolade from West German coach

ERBA, Italy (Agencies) — Lothar Matthaeus, swashbuckling hero of West Germany's rousing World Cup entry, earned the supreme accolade from team chief Franz Beckenbauer after their 4-1 win over Yugoslavia.

"When he plays like that there is no better player in the whole world. He has the abilities for it," Beckenbauer, himself one of the greatest players ever to grace the game, said Monday.

Matthaeus stamped the force of his personality on Sunday's game with two important goals, the first breaking a goalless deadlock and the second — a scorching shot at the end of a searing solo charge — killing off an incontinent Yugoslav challenge after the interval.

Beckenbauer, as cool and measured in his management as he was on the pitch as a player, is not a man for exaggerated compliments and Matthaeus treasured the tribute after his 75th "jubilee" appearance in an international career which began a decade ago this week.

Matthaeus, still only 29, has matured from the teenage tear-away of those early days into a formidable all-round player who could lead West Germany to their first World Cup triumph since "Kaiser Franz" held sway in 1974.

He wears the number 10 shirt

for West Germany but does not see himself in the same light as the more classic number 10 legends.

"I'm no Maradona, no Platini, I have own strengths and my own qualities," the Inter Milan player said at the West German base in the Lake Como area, near where he lives.

The tough little midfielder's qualities range from terrier-like tackling to an attacking zest, typified by the marauding run on thunderbolt long-range shot for 3-1 which, he said, was "the final knock-out for the Yugoslav team."

But, target of criticism in the past when things have gone wrong, Matthaeus is now reluctant to take personal credit when prospects look so bright after West Germany's compelling opening victory.

"I never had the feeling I had the match in my grip but that we had the match in our grip. The other players had a super game. I'm happy I could contribute with these two goals," he said.

He said midfield partners Thomas Haessler and Uwe Bein had covered for him so he could be free to concentrate on going forward.

He also stressed the team spirit among the whole squad and not just the 11 on the pitch — a contrast to past tournaments in

his experience.

Filioried in the past for alleged lying when it really mattered, he recalled two finals involving his former clubs Borussia Moenchengladbach and Bayern Munich when he had played "miserably."

"That's past. No I look forward. I was the scapegoat but it's the team which loses and the team which wins. Yesterday was not the victory of Lothar Matthaeus but the victory of the team," he added.

He said he used to get distracted by unimportant matters, trying to do too much, but after words with Beckenbauer four years ago he had begun to concentrate more on what mattered.

"Two years ago quite a bit changed. I went to Milan to play in what in my opinion is the strongest league in the world. This needed a new mentality. I had to introduce myself to a new world," he said.

"This would not have been possible without my family. Then I had a key experience with the premature birth of our second daughter," he noted. "It makes you think a little differently. Of course it's sad when you lose a match, but then it was a question of life and death."

Costa Rica stuns Scotland

GENOA, Italy (AP) — Costa Rica celebrated its World Cup debut Monday with a stunning 1-0 victory over Scotland in a Group C match.

Forward Juan Cayasso scored the only goal of the game in the 49th minute, beating goalkeeper Jim Leighton from close range after a clever backheel by teammate Claudio Jara.

Scotland attacked furiously after the goal, but was unable to beat the inspired goalkeeping of Gabelo Conejo.

In the second half, Conejo made a series of diving saves.

The defeat continued Scotland's poor record in the World Cup. The Scots have had a succession of talented players but never made it past the first round in six previous appearances.

Scotland and Costa Rica are

grouped with three-time champion Brazil and Sweden in group C of the 24-nation tournament. Brazil defeated the Swedes 2-1 in Turin on Sunday night.

The first half saw play concentrated almost exclusively in midfield as Scotland struggled to find a way past the packed Costa Rican defence.

Juan Cayasso sent a screaming drive just wide of goal in the seventh minute, but that was the only clear chance Costa Rica created.

At the other end, the Scots had three chances but were off target.

First, busy midfielder Roy Aitken sent a long-range shot over the crossbar.

Mo Johnston then sent a header just over the crossbar and watched as Conejo made a diving save from his crisp left-footed

drive.

Cayasso's goal came from a rare Costa Rican attack, but it changed the pattern of the game.

After scoring, Costa Rica was content to soak up pressure as the Scots threw men forward in search of an equaliser.

Conejo kept Costa Rica's lead intact when he made a pointblank save on a thunderbolt shot from Johnston in the 65th minute.

"I'm very disappointed," manager Andy Roxburgh said. "We were hammering at them for much of the game but the ball wouldn't go in for us. We had so many chances, but we couldn't finish."

"They played as well as they were capable and some of our players didn't," he noted.

Bora Milutinovic, Costa Rica's Yugoslav coach, said he was "immediately satisfied."

Brazilians celebrate 2-1 win

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilians launched a wild victory celebration Sunday to commemorate the national soccer team's 2-1 victory over Sweden in the squad's debut at the World Cup in Italy.

In Rio, revelers danced the samba on street corners, set off fireworks, honked car horns and threw confetti from windows as soon as the referee blew the final whistle.

A poll before the World Cup showed 60 per cent of the population believed Brazil would win unprecedented fourth world championship and the win Sunday appeared to have swayed the remaining skeptics.

"They played great, even better than I expected," said Neyla Pereira Paula, a 33-year-old housewife. "They didn't play well in their exhibition games, but now I'm convinced they will be the champions."

Brazil had played poorly in several recent warm-up matches, including a 3-3 tie against East Germany on May 13 in Rio and a 1-0 loss to a Spanish select team on May 19.

But Sunday in Turin, star striker Careca scored two goals, the first in the 41st minute and the second in the 62nd minute, to lead Brazil.

"From here on in they're only going to get better," said doorman Jorge de Oliveira. "We're the favorites."

In Sao Paulo, the country's largest city, the major thoroughfare Avenida Paulista was blocked off all day and giant television screens were installed for residents to watch the game.

Thousands of people danced to music from huge sound trucks when the game ended, waved the country's green and yellow flag and drank beer and caipirinha's, a local drink made from sugar cane alcohol.

Similar celebrations were held in other areas, and fireworks

could be heard throughout the city.

Soccer-crazed Brazilians have been in a state of nervous anticipation over the past several weeks. One television announcer on the major Manchete network advised spectators to "take your tranquilizers" minutes before the game began.

The South Americans came up with sparkling play, especially in the second half.

"We attacked more in the second half and the true Brazil came up," coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said. "But it was a very hard and difficult game for us. Sweden has a great team."

Brazil's victory before a crowd of 62,628 fans, many of them Brazilians waving flags and beating drums, was its first over Sweden since 1966. Since then, Sweden had won two, including a 2-1 victory last year in Copenhagen. Two games draw.

"In the first half we had problems," Lazaroni admitted. "We had to fight hard against a very good Swedish team. In the second half we had many opportunities to score. We attacked well. The speed was good."

Tomas Brodin, at 20 one of the youngest players in the World Cup, scored the lone goal for Sweden in the 79th minute when he beat goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel from close range.

That goal made it 2-1 and the Swedes had an excellent chance to equalise in the final minutes, but midfielder Klas Ingesson's shot went over the crossbar.

"We came very close to equalising, but Brazil also had chances to win it 3-1," said Swedish coach Ole Nordin.

"It's never fun to lose, but I have to admit that we lost against a very good team. I said before the tournament that Brazil is one of the favourites to win the World Cup. I'm not changing my opinion. Brazil can be one of the finalists."

Careca was the man the Swedes feared most.

His first goal with five minutes left in the first half came after a perfect, low pass down near centre field from Branco.

The second, his 11th goal, rounded the goalkeeper and tapped the ball with a left foot into the net.

Sweden, who was World Cup scorer in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico with five goals in five matches, saluted the Brazilian fans after his goal, doing a little dance on the sidelines.

The second came five minutes after Branco had been booked for a foul on a Swede.

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NATO, Warsaw Pact call off hostilities; seek new identities

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — The NATO and the Warsaw Pact military alliances have begun searching for new identities in an era of dramatically reduced tensions.

Last week, both blocs formally acknowledged the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe that have reduced the need for the massive amounts of armaments the two alliances built up over 40 years.

In Moscow, leaders of the seven nations making up the Warsaw Pact issued a statement calling for a dramatic reconstruction of their alliance, which had until last year been largely an instrument of Soviet domination.

The foreign ministers of the 16 NATO members, meeting in Turnberry on the Western coast of Scotland, were quick to respond to the Warsaw Pact's declaration.

"We are encouraged by the positive spirit conveyed in this declaration and in particular by the readiness... for constructive cooperation," they said.

The Warsaw Pact, which was formed in 1955 as a response to NATO, has been in virtual col-

lapse since the political upheavals in Eastern Europe late last year. One by one, Moscow's once-staunch allies ousted corrupt Communist regimes that had held power for decades.

Czechoslovakia and Hungary have demanded the withdrawal of thousands of Red Army troops stationed on their soil. The pull-out is already under way.

The Warsaw Pact's declaration "was just a ratification of the implosion that has taken place," said Hans Binnendijk, director of studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

"It has been clear for some months that the military wing, which was about all there was, just wasn't functional," he said.

Richard Fieldhouse, senior research associate at the Natural Resources Defence Council in Washington, said the Warsaw Pact's message to NATO was: "We don't want to practice wag-

ing war on you."

At their summit, Warsaw Pact leaders called for proposals by the end of October on ways to "transform" the alliance into a more political organisation.

But Binnendijk described the effort to put a "political gloss" on the group as a "last-ditch effort" to salvage what is left of the organisation.

The Eastern alliance is virtually certain to lose members.

East Germany, where 380,000 Soviet troops are garrisoned, will likely be the first to leave when it merges with West Germany.

Czechoslovakia and Hungary may defect later, possibly after the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from their territory, analysts said. That would leave only the Soviets, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland in the alliance.

The meeting of NATO foreign ministers was one of a series of high-level talks on how to transform NATO into political organisation. President George Bush and other NATO leaders will gather in London in early July to hold further talks.

But military officials have already moved to lower their guard.

On July 1, NATO will reduce the readiness of many air and ground forces in Western Europe.

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed, as part of an arms control deal, to reduce their troops to 195,000 on each side in Central Europe. The United States will retain some 30,000 additional soldiers in Britain and southern Europe.

To meet those levels, the Soviet Union would have to pull 370,000 soldiers out of the area. The United States would have to withdraw a total of 80,000 troops.

NATO allies hope the Kremlin will consent to a unified Germany's membership in a restructured NATO. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has so far opposed such a plan.

The United States has come up with a nine-point list of reassurances to help reduce Soviet fears of a hostile Germany. They include a promise not to station NATO forces in the current territory of East Germany.

Bulgarian Socialists expected to win in elections

SOFIA (R) — Thousands of supporters of the dissident-led Bulgarian opposition, angered by predictions of a win for the former Communist Party in the country's first free election in 40 years, demonstrated outside the National Assembly Monday and burned a Socialist Party banner.

More than 4,000 supporters of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) opposition coalition marched to the square outside the assembly building waving their party's blue banners and calling for a general strike.

Some young protesters ripped down a campaign banner of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the former Communist Party, and burned it.

Police reinforcements were called in, roads around the square blocked off and ropes strung around the building.

The crowd chanted "down with the BSP" as more young people, some wearing blue headbands, joined the protest.

The dissident-led UDF, which has mushroomed to include 16 opposition movements since the ousting last November of hard-line Communist leader Todor Zhivkov, has won the hearts of Bulgaria's young voters and professionals in major cities.

Unofficial, provisional results from Sunday's poll showed the UDF had an edge over the BSP in the capital but was trailing the former Communist Party in overall forecasts.

After it relinquished its constitutional monopoly on power late last year the former Communist Party revamped its image and young reformers were promoted. The BSP has retained loyal support in rural areas and among older voters.

In the absence of a full official tally, a parallel count by the West German opinion survey firm Infas said the BSP had 47.9 per cent of a sample vote and the UDF 35.6 per cent in the first round of elections for a 400-seat new National Assembly.

This would give the BSP 99 of the 200 seats to be allocated on a proportional basis against 73 for the UDF. The remaining seats will go to candidates of single-member constituencies.

Havel's party seeks coalition partners

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — The two political groups that broke the grip of Communist rule on Czechoslovakia are beginning the search for possible coalition partners after winning the first free election in 44 years.

Official results showed that Civic Forum and Public Against Violence — the Czech and Slovak sister organisations that led November's pro-democracy revolution — had captured the most seats in a new federal parliament.

The Communists had a surprising strong finish in second.

Civic Forum and its sister party won 169 of the 300 contested seats in the bicameral parliament, but fell short of the three-fifths majority needed to make key constitutional and economic reforms necessary to fulfill the goals of the revolution.

The Civic Forum, founded by President Vaclav Havel, had said before the election Friday and Saturday that it would seek a coalition government.

"We can say that the longing for freedom, democracy and a different order prevailed in this election," Havel told state television just after the results were announced on national television. The Communists finished in second place with 48 seats. The Christian Democrats, who had

been favoured for second place, finished third with 40 seats.

Both Civic Forum and the Christian Democrats have ruled out a coalition with the Communists.

Three parties representing separatist, regional interests were the only other groups to clear the 5 per cent minimum vote required in either the Czech or Slovak republic to get votes. The seat totals for all the parties may change slightly under the complex system of allocating votes.

Turnout among the 11.2 million electors was 96.7 per cent, the highest percentage in Central or Eastern Europe's recent spate of elections.

Civic Forum and Public Against Violence were likely to seek out the three-party Christian Democratic Alliance despite campaign acrimony generated by charges that a key Christian Democrat had been an informer for the hated Communist secret police.

The long years of Communist rule overshadowed the result.

Havel, a former dissident playwright who was a reluctant candidate for office before the revolution, now seems virtually certain to be elected for a two-year term by the new parliament, which has 40 days to decide.

Fate of Canadian accord rests on Newfoundland

OTTAWA (R) — The tiny impoverished island of Newfoundland holds the fate of Canadian unity in its hands as it considers whether to support an accord bringing French-speaking Quebec into the constitution.

Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells said he would announce Monday whether to put a weekend agreement signed by all other provinces to a referendum or a vote in his legislature.

The agreement, reached Saturday night after seven grinding days of talks, empowers Quebec to guard its culture and language against assimilation into English-speaking Canada.

It dies unless Newfoundland approves it by June 23. New Brunswick and Manitoba, two dissenting provinces earlier on, have agreed to ratify the accord in time.

Wells invited officials from the federal government and other provinces to Newfoundland to try to sway its citizens.

"Let them come here and publicly say what they said to me in the secrecy of that room and if the people are moved then the people's decision is right," Wells told reporters.

The province, a craggy outcrop off Canada's east coast, itself joined the confederation in 1949 when Newfoundlanders narrowly approved membership in a referendum following fistfights in the streets.

Home to only 570,000 of 26 million Canadians, the island depends heavily on federal economic aid, but unemployment, at 17 per cent, remains the highest in the country.

Quebec rejected the 1982 constitution that broke Canada's last colonial ties with Britain because it felt the document did not help it protect its heritage. The Meech Lake Accord, named after a government retreat in Quebec's Gaiqueau Hills, was drafted in June 1987 to address Quebec's concerns.

Filipino colonel killed in ambush

MANILA (R) — Suspected Communist guerrillas shot and killed a Philippine military intelligence commander Monday in the sixth rebel ambush in Manila in three weeks, police said.

Colonel Saturnino Dumalao was gunned down near his house six days after his men captured a senior communist officer. The incident happened during a military alert on the eve of Tuesday's election.

Police are looking at all angles but it is possible this was the work of the Snarrows, a police investigation of Communist deaths squared down by that name for their speed.

Police said Dumalao was driving to work when four men stopped him, dragged him out of his car and shot him using pistols and automatic rifles. The gunmen fled in a van.

A military spokesman said Dumalao was a leader of a crack

intelligence unit that captured Arturo Tujan, a chief Communist recruiter ranked number six in the Communist hierarchy, on June 5 in the same residential suburb where Dumalao was killed.

Dumalao was the 11th person to be killed in stepped-up Communist attacks around Manila in the past 19 days.

The military has been put on alert since rumors that right-wing army rebels might launch a new coup attempt against President Corason Aquino, who has survived six military revolts in his more than four years in office.

The military said it would deploy a 2,000-strong anti-terrorist force around the capital, specially at vital power and communications installations, to forestall any violence.

Aquino is expected to announce the formation of a new political movement at Tuesday's independence anniversary in what political analysts view as a

signal of her bid to seek reelection in 1992. She has repeatedly disavowed plans to run for a second term.

The movement is intended to revive the broadly based support that swept her to power in a 1986 "people power" revolt. Popular support for Aquino has dwindled as her government muddles through an array of political and economic problems, including corruption, a breakdown in public services, and inflation.

Aquino Sunday called on the nation to unite against leftist and rightist groups that she said wanted to grab power in the Philippines.

She invited the public to attend Tuesday's celebration at the Manila Rizal Park where she will deliver a speech and watch a military parade intended to show army loyalty to her.

The government is offering free transport to the public in an attempt to draw a big crowd.

Thai defence minister resigns

BANGKOK (R) — Thai Defence Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, infuriated by allegations of corruption by an outspoken politician, resigned Monday, creating a government crisis.

General Chavalit, one of the most powerful figures in the country, gave no explicit reason for his decision in a two-paragraph statement read on the army-run television station Channel Five.

"Considering the present circumstances I have decided that I cannot join you to solve national problems as I had planned to do. I therefore decided to resign," it said.

The resignation followed days of growing tension between the army and critics of Chavalit, who joined the government in late April as defence minister and deputy prime minister from his job as army commander-in-chief.

The decision prompted fears of some form of military intervention in a country that has seen 15 coups or coup attempts in 58 years.

It also threw doubt on plans by Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan to leave for a visit to the United States later Monday during which he had planned to meet President George Bush.

Chavalit's successor as army commander, General Suchinda Krapayoon, was cutting short a visit to Singapore and Brunei to return home.

Angry senior officers warned civilian politicians to stop criticising the army and one group staged a rally at a base in the north of Bangkok to show their support for Chavalit.

Prices on the securities exchange of Thailand fell sharply, with the main index falling more than 40 points, or four per cent.

Chavalit, 58, failed to attend a regular cabinet meeting at government house during the morning.

He had not appeared in public in Bangkok since returning from Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo last week.

Tamils kill 10 Sri Lankan troops

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas, who have been talking peace with the government, ambushed a military truck and killed 10 soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka Monday, military sources said.

They said the soldiers were returning to their camp at Kalmunai in Ampara district after buying food in a market when Tamil Eelam guerrilla group opened fire.

The shooting occurred as tension gripped the Batticaloa and Ampara districts in the east after armed Tigers took control of a police station and surrounded

four others earlier Monday.

Political observers in Colombo said the ambush was the worst Tiger provocation since peace talks began last year.

"I don't know how long our men are going to hold their fire under these provocative actions of the Tigers," a military man said.

Military sources said Tiger fighters stormed the Batticaloa police station and occupied it after ordering the policemen and their families to move.

The Tigers had earlier ambushed six Sinhalese policemen from the Batticaloa station, three

Sunday night and three Monday, they said.

On Monday, the rebels also surrounded police stations at Eravur, Valachenai, Kalmunai and Akkarapattu, along the coastline north and south of Batticaloa, the sources said.

They said the policemen in the stations, mostly men of the majority Sinhalese community, were trapped inside.

The Tigers moved to the police stations after two men, a Sinhalese and a Muslim, were injured in a scuffle at a refugee centre in Batticaloa Sunday, the sources said.

Talk of 'decolonisation' by Soviets in Central Asia grows

TASHKENT, USSR (AP) — A murderous land dispute among ethnic cousins in Central Asia has shaken loose a word that generations of Soviet leaders have rejected out of hand: decolonisation.

Since the 1920s, when Stalin redraw borders and declared Muslims freed of backwardness, Moscow has considered the five-Central Asian republics as much a part of the union as mother Russia.

It was heresy to call them colonies — and outright blasphemy to suggest that they might leave the union.

But now, encouraged by new freedoms, Asians are returning to their mosques, reviving long dormant traditions and, in their own languages, speaking of themselves as colonised people.

More and more, the question is arising whether a Soviet Union fraught with crises elsewhere can satisfy, and pacify, an increasingly restive region where a slight spark ignites explosion.

Officially, little has changed. Local Communist Party governments, still firmly in control, insist that Central Asia's future lies within the Soviet Union. The Kremlin agrees.

Apart from strategic minerals and rich agricultural land, political imperatives suggest no Soviet government would lightly relinquish its own territory.

Pragmatic Asians realise that separating themselves from the Soviet Union would be as complex as unwavering a Bukhara carpet. But in a turbulent situa-

tion no one controls, and few understand, Soviet leaders face hard choices they would rather not confront.

Ethnic rioting between Uzbeks and Kirghiz — set off by a dispute over land — brought thousands of troops into the Fergana Valley, the most densely populated part of the country. Soldiers sprayed gunfire at crowds.

"Moscow does not have enough troops, and it will not be able to manage if anything really blows," said a respected Soviet ethnographer who agreed to speak his mind if assured of anonymity.

Central Asia stretches from the Caspian Sea to China, an area half as big as the United States. Uzbekistan, with 19 million inhabitants, is the third-most populous Soviet Republic.

Michael Rywkin, a New York professor raised in the ancient city of Samarkand and author of Moscow's Muslim Challenge, put it bluntly in a recent interview: "There are pogroms against Russians. They've left villages and now they're leaving the cities. Soviet leaders face the same dilemma as Charles de Gaulle in Algeria, whether to just get out."

Russians began settling in Tashkent a century ago when Czarist troops secured most of the region. After the revolution, Soviet professionals brought education, industry and health care.

Despite official rhetoric about a single people, Europeans and

Asians have remained largely separate. A few Asian men have European wives, but almost no Muslim women marry outsiders. Most Asians say their hostility is not toward the outsiders themselves, but rather the stifling system that condemns them to an alien style of life with few choices.

Economists and sociologists acknowledge that, unless perestroika brings significant and rapid improvement, a rising tide of jobless youth will wash over the government's barriers against desperation.

As more Russians leave, analysts say, industry and services will suffer, making the problem worse.

Young Asians, long silent in fear of reprisal, are speaking out with growing vehemence. "We don't want Communists or their damned system," said a youth in Samarkand, distraught over impending military service. "They should go peacefully, orderly. But Uzbekistan must be free."

Even party officials worry that the growing tension threatens their traditional values. In Moscow, Bakhtiyur Khamidov, a senior member of the Uzbek mission to the central government, shook his head sadly at the riots pitting his people against Kirghiz.

"We have always been such a hospitable people," it is in our blood," he said. "You can imagine how bad conditions have gotten for this to have hap-

Fujimori's victory shows rift between rich and poor in Peru

LIMA (R) — The poor in Peru's Andean Highlands, the heart of the former Inca empire, gave Alberto Fujimori victory in Sunday's presidential election.

His rival, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, accepted defeat after unofficial exit polls showed Fujimori between nine and 19 per cent points ahead a few hours after polls closed.

Pre-vote polls said the two were neck and neck. But Sunday's vote showed that support for the former university rector of Japanese ancestry, a political unknown until a few months ago, was rock solid in Peru's impoverished interior and the lower classes.

Their vote was a rebuff to traditional political parties — the centre-left Aprista Party of outgoing President Alan Garcia and the right-wing coalition behind Vargas Llosa — and highlighted rifts in Peruvian society between rich and poor.

Vargas Llosa just didn't make any inroads in the interior," said one Western diplomat.

Fujimori faces immense problems. The country has been ravaged by the 10-year-old campaign by Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas.

The economy is in chaos. Inflation is 2,000 per cent a year and Peru has been a pariah in the financial world since Garcia restricted debt payments.

Fujimori must tackle a drugs industry that grows 60 per cent of the world's coca, the raw material for cocaine.

His answer is a sketchy plan so far mostly made up of negatives. He promised not to sell state companies wholesale, not to sack thousands of public employees and not to make people pay for education.

On drugs, he said military force against coca growers was not an answer. But he has not given details of his plans to help peasants replace coca with other crops.

Economists say Fujimori is still working on his plan, which is more gradualist than Vargas Llosa's proposed shock tactics but may differ less than made out so far.

Fujimori has pledged to restore Peru to good standing in the international financial community and honour its debts.

The economists said that to do this he must cut the public deficit and introduce a realistic exchange rate policy.

But if his policies at times appeared vague, Fujimori proved unbeatable in his communication with the poor.

Hitching a platform to the back of his tractor, he talked to voters in a simple homespun style, promising hard work and honesty and proclaiming himself 100 per cent Peruvian despite his Japanese background.

By contrast, Vargas Llosa, who spent years abroad in Europe and is an avowed admirer of foreign politicians such as Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Brazil's Fernando Collor de Mello, never looked at home on the campaign trail in Peru.

The divisions in society were highlighted by racist attacks of Fujimori, whose parents came to Peru from Japan in the 1930s.

As Fujimori left his voting booth Sunday, some opponents shouted "little oriental thief" and "Peru for the Peruvians."

Some members of the Catholic Church also encouraged discord. Catholic lay groups urged people not to vote for Fujimori, who is a Catholic, because his party was backed by Evangelical Protestant leaders with rapidly growing support among the poor.

But Fujimori hung on to his backing despite slurs and opposition from powerful newspapers and television channels.

Both Fujimori and Vargas Llosa appealed Sunday night for all Peruvians to work with the new government to confront the country's problems.

"It is essential that the wounds heal," Vargas Llosa said. News of Fujimori's victory brought people into the streets half a world away in Kawachi, the mall Japanese town where his father was born.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu also welcomed the news. But a Japanese government spokesman ruled out any special economic aid for the hugely inde-

bed South American country just because its new leader is of Japanese descent.

"Our government does not take special measures on the grounds that a Japanese descendant has won (an election)," Nobuo Ishihara told reporters.

There was no such reserve in Kawachi, in the Kumamoto region of southern Japan.

"Hundreds of townspeople gathered at the town hall early in the morning to celebrate Mr. Fujimori's victory," said Shunji Shimazu, mayor of the town which Fujimori's father Naichi, a tailor, left in 1934 to seek his fortune in faraway Peru.

"They broke open a sake barrel and toasted the new president to cries of 'banzai,'" he said.

Back in Tokyo, Kaifu commented: "I extend my heart-felt congratulations to a new president chosen by the public."

"I hope the president-elect will summon the public will and strive to overcome mounting difficulties and achieve economic reconstruction," Kaifu said.

"Fujimori ran for the elections as a Peruvian not as Japanese," said an official in the Latin American section of the Foreign Ministry, noting that Fujimori's victory would not affect bilateral relations either way.

But he added: "Japan might extend new forms of support if (Fujimori's) domestic and foreign policies turn out to be congenial and understandable to Japan."

Back in Peru, Shining Path rebels bombed a polling station at a high school during runoff presidential elections Sunday, killing one person and injuring eight, police said.

The guerrillas exploded at least nine other bombs in Huancayo, an Andean city, 190 kilometres east of Lima, police said. One of the bombs killed the rebel who was carrying it, police said.

In a separate attack in this city of 100,000, rebels Sunday shot and killed three brothers, police said. A note found on one of the bodies said, "this is how informers die."

COLUMN

Panama's president weds law student

PANAMA CITY (R) — Guillermo Endara, the 54-year-old president of Panama, married a 23-year-old law student in a modest Catholic ceremony amid heavy security. "It is a very happy moment," Endara said as hundreds of people cheered him and his bride, Ana Mae Diaz, outside the colonial-era Metropolitan Cathedral. Endara, an affable, portly widower whose first wife died a year ago, met Diaz while staging a hunger strike last September to protest the rule of General Manuel Noriega. Noriega was deposed in the December U.S. invasion that brought Endara to power. After the 90-minute ceremony, Endara and his bride walked around the plaza in front of the cathedral in a crush of guards to greet ecstatic well-wishers before heading two blocks west to the 19th-century presidential palace on Panama Bay for a reception. There, the couple, accompanied by family members and friends, appeared on a balcony. The bride tossed her wedding bouquet into a crowd of several hundred people shouting, "Endara, we are with you." Endara broke with Panamanian tradition in marrying Diaz, who comes from a more modest background than he and whose father is of Chinese descent.

World's oldest man dies at age of 112

LONDON (R) — The world's oldest man, 112-year-old Welshman John Evans, who worked as a miner for 60 years, has died, his family said. He was declared the world's oldest man by the Guinness Book of Records last December. "John went very peacefully, in his chair beside his bed. He had been a little unwell for a few days," his daughter-in-law Betty Evans said. Evans was born in 1877, 14 years before the death of Queen Victoria, and began working in south Wales mines at the age of 13. He was forced to retire when he was 73. He made medical history when at 108 he became the oldest person to be fitted with a heart pacemaker. His stock answer to secret of his longevity was: "No alcohol, no tobacco, no cursing and no gambling."

Liz Taylor has lung operation

LOS ANGELES (R) — Film star Elizabeth Taylor, who has been in hospital for two months recuperating from a serious bout of pneumonia, has undergone a lung operation, a hospital official said. "It was a very simple operation and doctors found there was no infection," said an official at St. John's Hospital, where Taylor is being treated. Taylor, 58, is in stable condition and is resting comfortably, a nursing supervisor said. The Academy Award-winning actress came close to death soon after entering the hospital in April for a sinus condition and developing pneumonia. Doctors said three weeks ago she would have to remain there for at least another month. Taylor, who has been married seven times, issued a statement at the time saying she wanted to dispel rumours that she had an AIDS-related condition. She said she had been tested for the deadly disease and the results had been negative.

Gabor decides to go to jail

LOS ANGELES (R) — Entertainer Zsa Zsa Gabor, found guilty of slapping a Beverly Hills policeman, has decided she will serve a three-day sentence for assault given her by a judge. At her trial last year Gabor was ordered jailed, fined \$12,000 and ordered to perform 120 hours of community service for assaulting officer Paul Kramer after he had stopped her for a traffic violation as she drove her Rolls-Royce through Beverly Hills. She agreed to perform the community service but appealed against the jail sentence and fine. Last month municipal Judge Charles Rubin found that the actress had failed to perform the full 120 hours of community service, cited her for violation of probation and added 60 more hours of obligatory service, bringing the total to 180 hours. At a ritz celebrity auction the acid-tongued, Hungarian-born entertainer said she would surrender herself for imprisonment in July. "I don't even want him (Judge Rubin) to know my name anymore," Gabor told more than 200 of her friends at the charity function. "I'm going to jail for him and work another 94 hours (of community service) for him, and then I'm going to say 'good-bye, dear judge'."

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